

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

A passage through India: Trevor Fishlock, *The Times* correspondent in Delhi, is about to leave the country which has been his home for the past three years. On the *Spectrum* page tomorrow he records his memories and parting impressions of India, a land of striking contrasts, where modern science lives side by side with the bullock cart and "there is never a dull moment".

The Friday Page takes a look at the home life of the Rev Ian Paisley, Northern Ireland's controversial clergyman and Unionist politician. After 26 years of marriage, Paisley still sends his wife red roses and she still keeps his love letters. A three-page Special Report on Wales describes the efforts being made to attract new industries and holiday visitors to the Principality.

## Green light for cut in base rates

The clearing banks are today expected to cut their base lending rates from 10½ to 10 per cent after a signal from the Bank of England. But last year's public borrowing may have been £1,000m over Budget estimates, official figures suggest.

## Seat belt law saves lives

Wearing of car seat belts, which became compulsory in February, is saving lives and substantially reducing serious road injuries, an investigation by *The Times* has disclosed.

## Chicago pledge

Mr Harold Washington, elected Chicago's first black mayor by just 4 per cent of the vote, pledged to heal the racial divisions opened in the campaign.

## Ulster murder

Terrorists shot dead a man believed to be in his mid-forties and connected with the Territorial Army, in an ambush in Main Street, Keady, Co. Armagh, last night.

## Galtieri goes

General Leopoldo Galtieri, former President of Argentina, was taken to an undisclosed Army prison, amid growing uncertainty over his sentence and his precise legal situation.

## Reuters' £36.5m

Reuters, the news and financial information agency whose ownership is in dispute, reported doubled profits of £36.5m.

## Mafia slaughter

Eleven people have died, including a former lieutenant of the gangster Lucky Luciano, in a fresh outbreak of Mafia clan killings in Sicily.

## Japanese 'spies'

Mr Stanislaw Levchenko, the Soviet spy who defected to the United States in 1979, has named several prominent Japanese, including a Cabinet minister, whom he said, he had recruited as KGB agents.

## Slim chances

Short cuts to slimming such as starch blockers and appetite suppressants are a waste of money and could be harmful, according to *Which?* magazine.

## Cut in smoking

A survey by the Cancer Research Campaign indicates that fewer children are smoking than in recent years.

Leader page, 15  
Letters: On Third World aid, from Professor Al Chumies Ross, and Sir Colin Campbell; citizens' advice, from Mr J Davies; teaching, from Mr A A Barton. Leading article: Mayor of Chicago, Miscarriages of justice, War widows visiting graves. Features, pages 12, 14  
Why Reagan is right in El Salvador. Will President Saddam be the last victim of the Iran-Iraq war? An unlikely hero for Michael Foot. *Spectrum*: Out and about with the night people. Obituary, page 16  
Mr Desmond Bagley, Rear-Admiral B. C. Durant. Building Societies: Three-page special report for borrowers and investors, pages 21-23

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# Arafat envoys sent to reopen peace talks with Husain

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said in Stockholm last night that he had sent two special envoys to Amman to reopen talks with King Husain of Jordan on the Reagan peace plan for the Middle East.

"We will be doing our best to continue these joint talks with the Jordanian authorities," he said. He hoped for a meeting between himself and King Husain shortly. Asked when, he replied, "Tomorrow? Why not?"

Mr Arafat said there were "just some misunderstandings" between himself and King Husain. "When I left Amman, I told him 'You are a king and maybe you can give directives. I am a chairman and I have been elected democratically, which is why I have to discuss things with my leadership'."

He referred to "some adjustments" to the plan put to him by King Husain and said "these are now under discussion". He said King Husain was still "cooperating together".

Mr Arafat also said that he still hoped to meet King Hassan of Morocco to discuss President Reagan's peace proposals. He said the Arab summit meeting in Rabat had been only temporarily postponed.

Asked if he would be going to Rabat, he smiled, spread his hands amiably and said, "Why not?"

Mr Arafat added: "Within the next 24 hours there will be a summit meeting of the PLO

leadership, probably in Tunisia, to discuss the situation in the light of the Jordanian cabinet communiqué."

It was this communiqué on Sunday that prompted speculation that President Reagan's peace plan was no longer negotiable.

But while Mr Arafat was in jovial mood, praising the "friendly nature" of his Swedish hosts, he had harsh words concerning the American involvement in Middle Eastern politics.

"When I was under siege in Beirut," he said, "I was not facing the Israelis. I was facing the Americans." He accused the Israeli invasion force of being "American mercenaries".

"On the other hand, the Soviet Union is supporting us. They have declared that the Palestinian people must have their rights."

He said that before there could be any recognition of Israel by the PLO, the organization was asking for "international legality".

He smiled sadly as he blinked in camera flashlights. "I am still homeless, stateless, without even an identification card," he said. "We are five million, we have our rights."

"Israel was created by a United Nations' resolution but they ignore all other UN resolutions."

He said he carried a gun and was prepared to use it "so that what happened to Mr Sartawi does not happen to me."

## Cunard refit to cost taxpayers £800,000

By Rupert Morris

Nearly half the cost of refitting the Cunard Countess, the cruise liner, in a Maltese shipyard will be borne by the British taxpayer.

The ship, which is ferrying relatives of the Falklands dead to Montevideo on their way home, needs a £2m refit before embarking on its usual round of Caribbean cruises in July.

The Ministry of Defence will bear 40 per cent of the cost of the refit - about £800,000 - equivalent to the work involved in removing the helicopter pad and other military equipment, and restoring the ship to its pre-Falklands state.

Although British Shipbuilders bid for the contract, the state-owned firm was beaten by the Malta Drydock Corporation.

Mr Bernard Crisp, managing director of Cunard, said he had wanted to place the order in Britain, but British Shipbuilders had been unable to do the work in less than 80 days. He also pointed out that the Cunard Countess, which was built in Denmark and operated in the Caribbean, was normally refitted in the United States.

He said: "We offered to pay

## Forecast of 5% rise in exports

By Michael Prest

Britain's exports should grow more strongly than ever over the next 12 months as a result of the fall in sterling, and the certainty that the world economy will recover this year.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade, said, the United States Federal Reserve Board chairman, which were interpreted to mean that the United States will try strenuously to avoid any significant rise in interest rates.

Mr Rees said: "There is now growing evidence of a thaw at last in the world economy."

This view - which bears critically on Government policy in a probable general election year - is strongly supported by outside forecasters.

It is now expected that the industrial countries' gross national product - the total value of all goods and services and trade - will grow on average this year by 2 per cent, compared with virtual stagnation or worse in preceding years.

The crucial element in these forecasts is the US. Economists anticipate a growth rate of up to 4 per cent, accompanied by modest inflation and continuing firm control of the money supply.

The United Kingdom Treasury feels that lower oil prices, more control over inflation, gradual reduction of Budget deficits among some major countries, and improvements in business confidence leading to new investment, should ensure that the recovery will be sustained.



Mr Bernard Crisp: Wanted Britain to get order.

because it was unable to do the work in the requisite 55 days. Both Cunard and the Government have come under mounting public criticism for the fact that the work is not coming to Britain.

Mr Bernard Crisp, managing director of Cunard, said he had wanted to place the order in Britain, but British Shipbuilders had been unable to do the work in less than 80 days. He also pointed out that the Cunard Countess, which was built in Denmark and operated in the Caribbean, was normally refitted in the United States.

He said: "We offered to pay

round-the-clock overtime to one British yard, but even then it would not have been possible for them to get the work finished in time."

Cunard need the work to be done in 55 days because the British Government had prolonged the ship's stay in the Falklands, and she was booked for Caribbean cruises from July 9.

Sir Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders, said he could not afford to risk incurring the heavy penalty clauses Cunard was stipulating if the work were not completed on schedule.

Although the Maltese were charging £500,000 more than British Shipbuilders, they could assign 5,000 men to the task, and Mr Crisp was confident the time schedule would be kept.

Union leaders in Britain were sceptical about the ability of the Maltese to fulfil the contract.

Mr Paddy McKay, chairman of the Tyne Shiprepair Group shop stewards' committee, said the work would have been "manna from heaven" to the group, which lost 1,400 jobs and three repair yards last year.

Mr Tom Burdison, chairman of the Northern TUC, spoke of outrage among local people at a time when British Shipbuilders was contemplating further redundancies, and called for legislation to force British shipowners to have building and repair work done in British yards.

The British Government has been a leading source of revenue for Cunard over the past year, chartering the Queen Elizabeth 2 and the Cunard Countess.

When the Atlantic Conveyor, another Cunard ship, was sunk in the Falklands, the Government paid between £10m and £15m to ensure that its replacement was built in Britain.

NEW YORK: Cunard officials in New York said yesterday that they expected a contract with the Maltese firm to be signed soon (Christopher Thomas writes).

## Slip the election leash, demand Opposition parties

By Julian Haviland and Philip Webster

The Opposition parties responded yesterday to the growing belief at Westminster in an early general election, the Alliance leadership by saying they were eager for a fight, and Labour MPs by approving, in a mood of marked amity, their campaign document, *The New Hope for Britain*.

Mr Roy Jenkins, leader of the Social Democrats, speaking last night at Staines, Middlesex, urged Mrs Margaret Thatcher to stop "dithering". The Parliament had run as much of its course as it had the stamina to do, he said, and every month the Government continued in office was worse news for the unemployed.

"Equally, the threat of a Labour government, however remote the prospect, creates uncertainty and weakening confidence. Let us get on with it

said, and knew that only by going to the country in June could she claim even limited success for her economic policy because inflation would be rising by the end of the year."

Earlier, after a meeting between Mr Jenkins, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and their advisers, a joint statement said that the Alliance parties had more than 500 candidates in the field. The sooner the country could vote for a new beginning the better.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP president, speaking in Wandsworth, south London, said that many active Conservatives and many Labour MPs were afraid of their own party's winning.

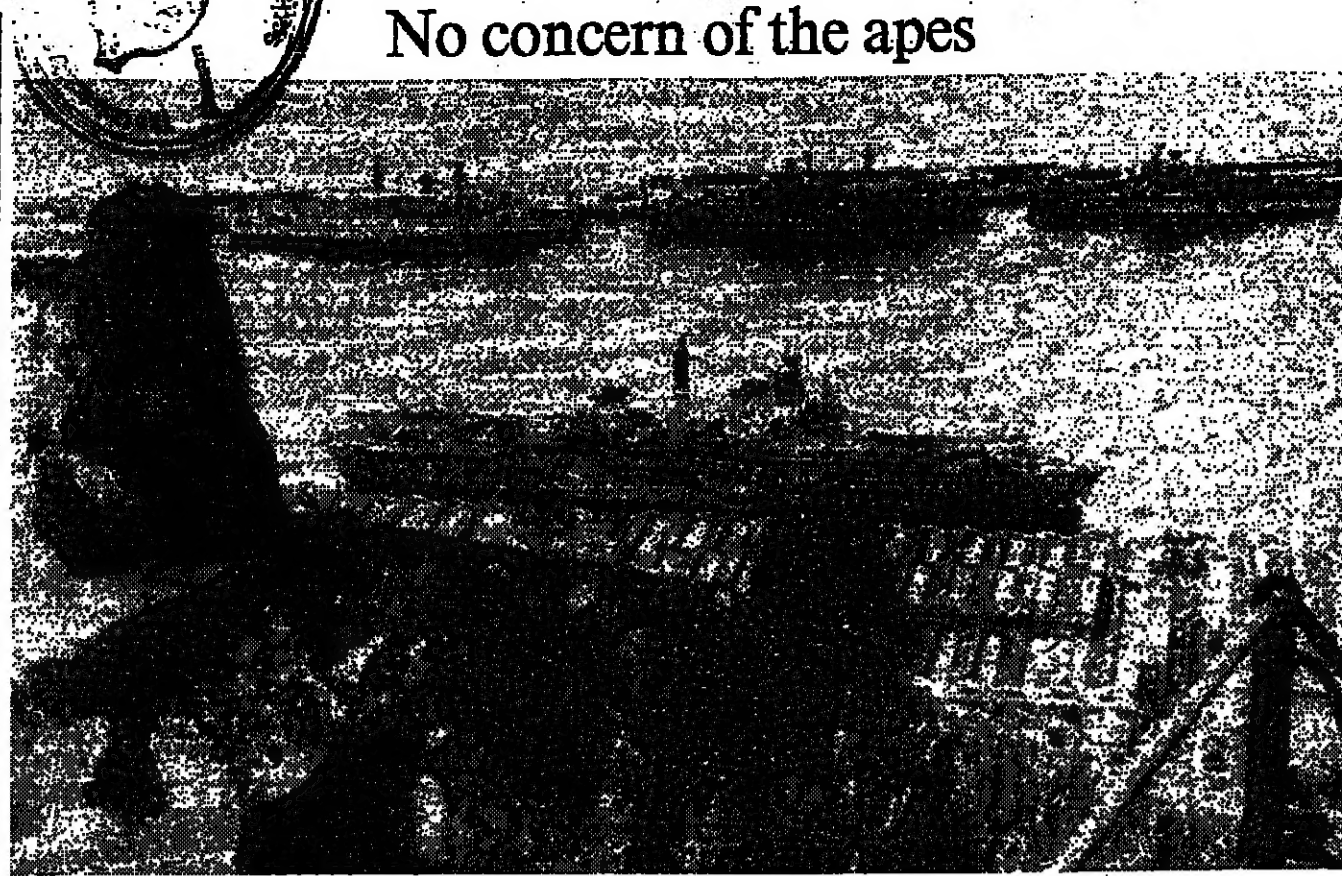
Conservatives were frightened of a move to the right. Labour MPs, including many of their leaders, had no stomach for their programme, and did not believe it could or should be implemented.

Labour MPs reacted to the



and put these great matters of the proof."

In the next breath Mr Jenkins deployed the argument to which those Conservatives who prefer an autumn election believe they would be most vulnerable. Mrs Thatcher was frightened, he



Two of Gibraltar's famous apes sit impressively as ships of the "Falklands fleet" lie alongside in the harbour.

## Spanish warships watch the Fleet sail into Gibraltar

From Richard Wigg, Gibraltar

men from life-rafts. Prince Andrew is a helicopter pilot on board the invincible.

Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, said the Spanish protests did not help the good neighbourliness required if the 1980 Lisbon agreement (on opening the border) was to have its effect.

As the fleet came in, the Gibraltar Trades Council said it will block the Spring Train exercise as part of the union's campaign to save the naval dockyards from closure.

A statement said the action would last until tomorrow, but its effects were not immediately clear. The unions said that if it had not been for the attitude of the Spanish Government "situated in Gibraltar" the blocking would have continued for the duration of the fleet's five-day stay.

MADRID: Señor Manuel Fraga, leader of Spain's main opposition party, the Popular Alliance, said that if he were in power he would immediately

send the Spanish fleet to Algeciras Bay. He said he would also renounce the Lisbon agreement, because it was impossible to negotiate under such conditions.

The Senate, the upper house of the Cortes, unanimously passed a resolution supporting the government protest. The resolution deplored the visit and said it implied a worsening of Anglo-Spanish relations.

However, the Spanish people seemed much less "worried and disgusted" about the arrival of Prince Andrew and "the Falklands fleet" than the Madrid government, which summoned Sir Richard Parsons, the British Ambassador, twice in the past two days to hear its protests.

Spaniards interviewed expressed a lack of concern for the most part. Only two of Madrid's six morning newspapers found the fleet's visit sufficiently newsworthy to go on the front page, and most made no editorial comment.

## Sierra campaign in trouble

By Clifford Webb

Ford's controversial discount campaign for dealers, to boost its new Sierra car to the top as Britain's best-selling car, has run into trouble. Rivals say that it has dashed all hopes of ending the bitter cut-price war of the last two years and appears to have backfired on Ford because of its short-lived success.

Confidential figures circulating in the industry last night show that in the first 10 days of April, the Sierra fell from outright leadership with 11.5 per cent, to fifth place with only 5.3 per cent. It has been overtaken by Vauxhall's Cavalier followed by BL's Metro, Ford's own

Escort and BL's new Maestro which has moved from sixth to fourth place.

Competitors claim that Ford spent between £5m and £7m last month to boost Sierra sales. Dealers were given £500 a car for registering up to 10 Sierras for use as so-called demonstrator models. Most of them were sold within days of being registered. In addition, dealers received bonuses of £350 for each sale over a minimal target.

It is understood that this was increased by several hundred pounds for the last 10 days of March, enabling some dealers

to sell Sierras at £1,000 below list price.

One of the biggest Ford dealers in the country, the Birmingham-based BSG group, advertised Sierras for sale at "factory prices".

Sierras with delivery mileage have also been sold by dealers through British Car Auctions sale rooms. Dealers justified this by pointing to the huge bonuses available for cars registered in March.

This last-minute increase in the campaign produced such a flood of registrations that

## Walesa set free after questioning

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish police yesterday picked up Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the banned Solidarity trade union, to question him about his weekend talks with fugitive underground leaders. After five hours of interrogation, the police allowed Mr Walesa to return home.

According to eyewitnesses, two uniformed policemen and an officer in plain clothes took Mr Walesa away from his apartment in Gdansk, threatening to use force if necessary. Mr Walesa at first refused on the grounds that they had no arrest warrant but he eventually agreed and was then driven to a police station for interrogation.

Under Polish law, the police can hold suspects for 48 hours without an arrest warrant, but Mr Walesa was freed after only a few hours of questioning. According to his friends, Mr Walesa refused to give any details of his meeting with the underground.

It has been clear for the past day - since Mr Walesa announced publicly that he had met leaders of the Solidarity underground - that the authorities would have to undertake some kind of action against the Solidarity leader.

Although it is not actually illegal to meet with fugitive Solidarity activists, it is illegal to discuss anti-government actions with them. If the authorities can establish a link between the law was broken, this might eventually lead to an arrest. This is still unlikely, however, as it would have far reaching implications for such events as the planned

Papal visit to Poland in June.

## Whites-only premiere for 'Gandhi' in South Africa

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sir Richard Attenborough will attend a whites-only premiere of his award-winning film *Gandhi* in Johannesburg next Thursday, apparently because the charity for whose benefit it is being staged failed to apply in time for a special permit allowing the film to be shown to a multi-racial audience.

The April 21 premiere here is being held to raise money for the Cancer Association of South Africa. Sterkinekor, the cinema chain showing *Gandhi*, said yesterday that it had not been asked by the charity to apply for a multi-racial permit, and now it was too late to do so as all the seats had been sold to whites.

On April 22 Sir Richard will get a chance to attend a multi-racial showing of *Gandhi* at an

old cinema in the Fordsburg suburb of Johannesburg which was recently declared an Indian area. This is to raise money for the *Gandhi* Centenary Council which wants to restore Tolstoy Farm, where Gandhi lived and worked for a time.

Dr Essop Jassat, the vice-chairman of the Gandhi Centenary Council, said last night: "The fact that (the premiere) is a whites only audience shows the whole silly set-up in South Africa, whites are going to see a work about a man who opposed all they stand for. I don't think Richard Attenborough realizes what he's doing. If he was aware of the implications he wouldn't do it."

He accepted that there were "genuine intellectual queries" on the campaign document; he emphasized that sentences should not be picked out of the passage on nuclear disarmament, but that it should be read in full.

Mr Foot's pledge on the manifesto was welcomed by left-wing MPs.

Mr Thatcher has suffered a drop during the past month of 3 per cent, in the number of voters who are satisfied with her as Prime Minister, according to a Gallup poll published in *The Daily Telegraph* today (the Press Association reports).

TUC campaign, page 2

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## 'Pillions for hire' trips go-ahead

Britain's first private hire motor cycles with "chauffeurs" were licensed yesterday when Bradford council permitted two unemployed brothers to operate package holidays on the pillion.

After consulting the council's lawyers, the public services subcommittee agreed that the 500cc machines of Mr John Berry, aged 27, and Mr Gary Berry, his brother, aged 24, could be licensed.

The subcommittee accepted the advice that a motor cycle because it was constructed to carry fewer than eight passengers.

## Field trial for lawnmowers

The argument between Qualcast and Flymo is to be tested today at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, before officials from the Independent Television Companies Association (ITCA).

Qualcast has been running a television advertisement purporting to show how much more efficient its conventional Concorde lawnmower is than the hovering Flymo. Flymo complains the advertisement is a misrepresentation and ITCA officials will see the Concorde in action.

## Police charged with assault

Seven police constables of the special patrol group, including a young woman, appeared at Wells Street magistrates' court, central London, yesterday, charged with assaulting black youths during the Brixton riots in 1981 and conspiring to cover up the alleged attacks.

Between April 11, 1981 and September 9, 1982, they were alleged to have attempted to mislead investigating police officers by making untrue statements, after alleged assaults on Mr Ian Francis and Mr Winston Young.

## Verdict on housewives

A verdict of unlawful killing by a person or persons unknown was returned by the jury at the inquest in Aldershot yesterday into the deaths of two housewives.

Mrs Margaret Johnson, aged 66, and Mrs Ann Lee, aged 44, both of Aldershot, were killed on May 10 last year while walking their dogs across army land.

## Changes at trust

Lord Trust Caldecote is to succeed Eric Drake, who retires on May 1, as chairman of the Mary Rose Trust.

Captain Charles Douds, the Navy director of appointments and training at the Ministry of Defence will become the trust's chief executive officer; Mr Richard Harrison, the executive director, will become museum director; and Mrs Margaret Rule, the archaeological director, is to be research director.

## CORRECTION

Mrs Shirley Williams was joined by Mr Richard Holmes, chairman of the Liberal Party's publicity group, not by Mr Richard Wainwright in the press conference reported on April 12 under the heading "Foul play cry by Williams".

# TUC steps up campaign to fight Thatcher on jobless

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders yesterday stepped up their preparation for a general election and reaffirmed that the keynote of Labour's political challenge to Mrs Margaret Thatcher would be on unemployment and the TUC's "battle for jobs".

Representatives of 30 unions attending a fund-raising conference at Transport House in London were told that Labour's "council of war" at Woodstock College, Surrey, in three weeks' time would concentrate on the aims, organization and financial backing for Mr Michael Foot's effort to get into Downing Street.

Mr David Bassett, chairman of Trade Unions for Labour Victory (TULV), which also met yesterday, said: "We are making sure we are organized and ready. We are gearing up."

He added: "Unemployment will be the major issue of the election. Central to that will be the TUC's battle for jobs."

The "summit" bringing together the unions, the Shadow Cabinet and Labour's national executive will be held on May 5 and 6 at the training centre of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, of which Mr Bassett is general secretary. The issue of the party leadership seems to have been set firmly aside in preparations for a possible June poll.

Union leaders last night refused to say what progress had been made towards the party's objective of a £3m "war chest" to fight the election. The TULV chairman said that it was a three-stage campaign to bring in money from the financially hard-pressed labour movement, and the cash was coming in. But this timetable could be changed if the Prime Minister called a snap election.

The National Union of Mineworkers, which has so far stood aloof from TULV, is understood to have promised Mr Jim Mortimer, the party secretary, a donation of £200,000 towards the election fund. The total of promises and cash actually raised must now exceed £1m.

In a confidential analysis of the Budget, the TUC economic committee yesterday fed fresh political ammunition to Labour's front bench spokesmen on the economy. The paper claimed that inflation would rise from its low of 4.9 per cent in January to at least 6 per cent by the end of this year, mainly because recent devaluation of the pound had made imports more expensive.

And in a general criticism it said: "The Chancellor has attempted to diminish the importance of the Budget in two respects over the last four years. Firstly, the Treasury has diminished the impact of the statement itself by assiduously leaking some of the key elements of the Budget prior to the Budget speech."

"This has been used as a means of manipulating the political impact of various proposals. This contrasts with the Chancellor's unwillingness to open up the pre-Budget discussions in the way suggested by the House of Commons select committee."

"Secondly, the Chancellor has framed the Budget proposals within the very narrow constraints imposed by the Medium Term Financial Strategy. He has attempted to create the impression that the Government is powerless except in the negative sense of minimizing its level of expenditure and borrowing in the economy."

## Nine years for 'master burglar'

Billy Brazil, aged 35, a professional burglar, was jailed for a total of nine years by Winchester Crown Court yesterday for a series of burglaries at wealthy homes in the South.

Judge Pigot, QC, told him: "You are a master burglar and, indeed, the most accomplished professional burglar I have ever encountered."

Brazil was one of 10 people sentenced for the part they played in a series of burglaries in which antiques, paintings, and silverware were stolen and disposed of.

He was found guilty of nine cases of burglary and on charges of conspiring to commit burglary and conspiring to handle stolen goods. The judge said that unrecovered property from the nine burglary offences was worth more than £77,000.

Judge Pigot ordered Brazil to pay £11,500 towards his legal aid and made a criminal bankruptcy order against him.

## Supergrass 'took part in death raid'

From Richard Ford, Belfast

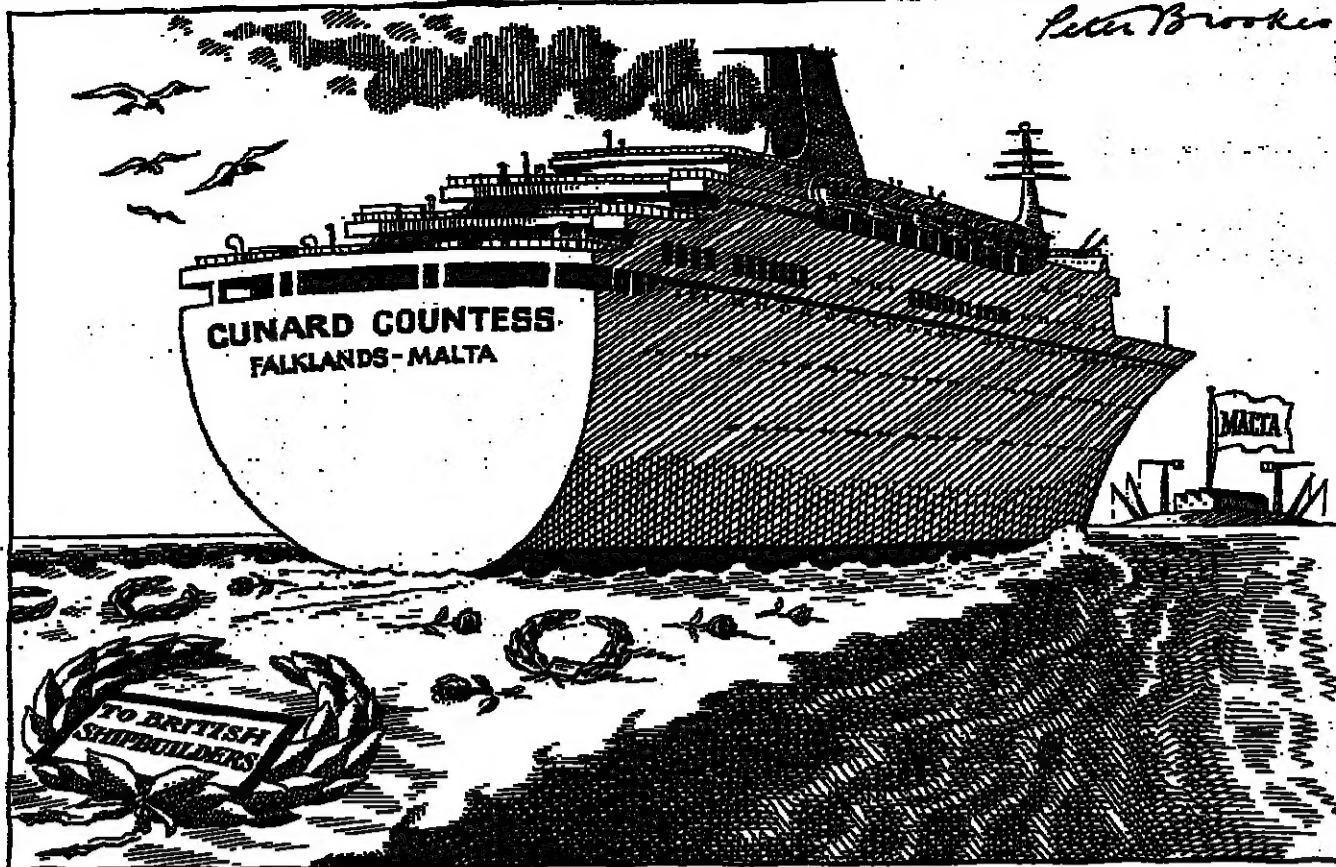
A loyalist "supergrass" whose evidence helped to jail 12 out of 14 men for a total of 200 years, and the remaining two for life, was named yesterday as the third man in a Post Office raid during which a woman was murdered.

Mr Joseph Bennett, a self-confessed former commander in the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, has been granted immunity from prosecution in relation to crimes now being tried at Belfast Crown Court.

Yesterday the trial began of two men charged with the murder of Miss Muriel McCann, at postmistress at Killinichy, Co Down, last year.

William Clifford and Michael Campbell, both from Belfast, deny charges of murder, malicious wounding, attempted armed robbery and possession of a gun and ammunition with intent to rob.

The case continues today.



## Thousands in Dublin tax march

From Our Correspondent

Thousands of workers in the Republic of Ireland staged a half-day strike yesterday afternoon as marches were held in more than 20 cities and towns in support of tax reforms.

The police said that 20,000 people took part in the largest march through the centre of Dublin. Union leaders claimed the future was higher, but acknowledged that it was much lower than the estimated 100,000 involved in the tax march of March, 1979. Attendances at marches outside Dublin varied from 300 to 5,000 yesterday.

The protests disrupted industry throughout the country, but shops, banks and public houses remained open.

The marches are intended to be the first stage of a campaign of opposition to the high levels of tax and social insurance contributions paid by workers who are taxed under the pay as you earn system.

Leaders of the three main parties in the republic and the Social Democratic and Labour Party in the North met today for talks on setting up the all-Ireland forum aimed at drawing up the shape of a united Ireland (our Belfast Correspondent writes).

## RCN votes for separate pay fight

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday voted unanimously to go it alone in pay rounds. Its members, meeting in Bournemouth, made it clear they fully support their leaders' stand that the new independent pay review body should cover only qualified staff and students.

The college hopes the Government will take note of the vote and drop its proposal for talks on setting up the all-Ireland forum aimed at drawing up the shape of a united Ireland (our Belfast Correspondent writes).

Mr Jeff Wood, of the college's Association of Nursing Education in the West Midlands, said that during last year's

## New appeals review body ruled out

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government, in a White Paper published yesterday, has rejected MPs' proposals for an independent review body to examine alleged miscarriages of justice.

But it says that the Home Secretary will be prepared to refer more of such cases back to the Court of Appeal, which will make greater use of its powers to admit evidence and consider a retrial.

The Home Secretary will also consider appointing lawyers ad hoc to assist over whether to take action in some cases, and in all cases where the Home Secretary refuses to take further action "some explanation, rather than a simple statement of refusal to intervene in a case, should be offered".

The White Paper is the Government's response to a report last November by the Home Affairs Committee of MPs which argued for a new independent appeals review body to allow public concern about possible miscarriages of justice.

The MPs said that such a body, called for in evidence to the committee by the Criminal Bar Association, by Justice, the law reform group, and by Sir David Napley, the solicitor, could lead to a re-examination of up to 200 convictions a year.

From 2,000 petitions presented to the Home Secretary.

But yesterday the White Paper said that "as a matter of constitutional principle it should primarily be for the courts and the judicial process to review convictions and, if necessary, upset them".

Urging that priority be given to improving and enhancing the part played by the courts in the review of cases, it added: "It cannot be assumed that where the judicial process may have failed to arrive at a just solution, an alternative arrangement can be devised which will be certain to get it right".

Urging a more flexible use of present powers, the White Paper says: "The Home Secretary will in future be prepared to exercise his power of reference more readily" and that the Lord Chief Justice "sees room for the court (of appeal) to be more ready to exercise its own powers to receive evidence, or where appropriate, as practicable, to order a retrial".

The Government will consider introducing legislation to allow the Home Secretary to refer doubtful summary cases back to magistrates courts.

*Miscarriages of Justice: Government Reply to the Sixth Report from the Home Affairs Committee, Session 1981-1982 (Stationery Office, Cmd. 8236, £1.30).*

## Bishops in plea to end Ford strike

Church leaders in Liverpool yesterday urged unions and management at the troubled Ford factory in Halewood, Merseyside, to thrash out a new peace formula. Workers in the body plant are threatening to walk out if new "Japanese-style" flexible working practices are introduced.

In a joint statement, the Roman Catholic archbishop, Mr Derek Worlock, and the Anglican bishop, Dr David Sheppard, called for immediate talks to avert the crisis. They also urged for an end to the "smear" campaign against Halewood workers.

They said "A prolonged strike would be damaging to the workforce whose solidarity is often mistaken for militancy. We appeal to both parties to go to the conference table without delay."

"We urge them to abandon the policy of brinkmanship which does no more than prepare the way for another dispute."

Dr Sheppard added: "It's wrong that the majority of the workforce is smeared with the word 'militant'. We have visited the factory and we do not believe the smear is justified."

Ford denied that it was guilty of "brinkmanship".

Mr William Broderick, area organiser for the Transport and General Workers Union, welcomed the church leaders' statement. "We have been struggling manfully for 18 months to have talks with the company over this issue, but without success," he said. "We are willing to talk any time about the new working practices."

Mr Harold Musgrave, chairman of BL's Austin Rover group, yesterday warned 5,000 men on strike at his Cowley assembly plant that today's mass meeting votes to continue the three-week old strike, a £100m investment to produce a new Anglo-Japanese car could be switched from Cowley to Longbridge (Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent, writes).

## Abbey to pump £100m into inner-city housing

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

The Abbey National Building Society is expecting to pump £3,000m into home buying this year compared with £2,500m last year, Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman, announced yesterday at the society's annual general meeting.

Of that sum £750 will go towards new homes. It is believed to be the largest sum allocated by a society for new houses. The sum will also include £100m for inner-city housing, where Abbey believes it is most needed.

Sir Campbell said: "In inner-city areas, I am not yet convinced that the full implications of Abbey National's involvement in improving housing conditions has been grasped by the business world. These areas represent a large market where finance is now, perhaps for the first time, readily available."

Although Abbey is expected to lend by far the largest amount of money for home buying, its increases are only broadly in line with most societies. Woolwich Equitable commented yesterday that it, too, expects to increase lending by about 20 per cent and that a quarter of all mortgages will be for new homes.

Like many other leading societies Abbey has launched an inner-city initiative with pilot schemes in key areas to show what can be done with rundown urban housing. It is estimated that new private housebuilding will rise by 14 per cent to 160,000 in the current year. Abbey allocation to meet that is doubling from last year's £350m.

Mr Noel Edmonds, the disc jockey, told a jury yesterday that he believed his business partner began laying a smoke-screen after their venture began to go wrong.

He said that after announcing in June, 1981, that he wanted to break the world water speed record, his partner, Basil Wainwright, began to behave "irrationally" to mislead.

Mr Wainwright, aged 48, of Yardley Wood, Birmingham, denies 22 finance charges, including nine of theft, at Worcester Crown Court.

It is alleged that Mr Wainwright obtained by theft and deception more than £40,000 from Mr Edmonds.

Sheryl Cuffie, aged 29, of Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, Mr Wainwright's former secretary, denies 10 joint charges.

## Unions renew pressure on publishing company

From David Feiton, Labour Correspondent, Dundee

The biggest non-union company in the publishing industry is again under pressure from unions trying to win recognition, but the family-run DC Thomson and Co is determined to fight to prevent them gaining a foothold.

Yesterday 400 delegates from the National Union of Journalists' conference which is being held in Dundee, and other trade unionists marched around the company's newspaper offices in Dundee as part of the drive for recognition, but the management was unmoved. "We know our way works," a Thomson spokesman said.

Thomson, which is run by the great-grandchildren of Mr William Thomson, a Dundee shipowner who founded the company more than 100 years ago, publishes dozens of comics

and women's magazines including *Dandy*, *Beano*, *Topper*, *Rover*, *Annabel* and *My Weekly*. Its newspapers include the *Dundee Courier*, which with a circulation of more than 130,000 outsells all provincial morning papers in Britain. The *Weekly News* and *The Sunday Post*, which has a claimed readership of 70 per cent of the entire population of Scotland over 15 years of age. The company made a £7m profit last year.

Union officials claim that the success of DC Thomson has been brought about by the price of poor pay and conditions because the company will not allow unions to bargain on behalf of the 3,000 employees. The NUJ has about 60 members, representing 20 per cent of the Thomson editorial staff.

The present health craze has led to a boom in the sales of high fibre, bran-based breakfast cereal, according to a report published yesterday.

The report, by Key Note Publications, says that the rapid growth in consumption of bran cereals and muesli is likely to continue.

The traditional cooked breakfast is rapidly becoming a thing of the past, particularly in urban areas, it says.

Overseas selling prices: America \$2.25; Belgium £2.00; Canada \$2.00; France £2.00; Germany £2.00; Italy £2.00; Japan £2.00; Netherlands £2.00; Norway £2.00; Sweden £2.00; Switzerland £2.00; Taiwan £2.00; Thailand £2.00; United Kingdom £2.00; United States \$2.00; Yugoslavia £2.00.

## Science report

## Clear view through the living lens

By the Staff of Nature

A long-standing puzzle about the capacity of the eye to see appears to have been solved by two French researchers, Mireille Delage from the University of Paris-Sud and Annette Tardieu from the Molecular Genetics Centre of CNRS, near Paris.

The question they have tackled is how the lens of the human eye can be more or less transparent when it is crisscrossed with protein molecules whose capacity for scattering light would be expected to blur images of the outside world out of recognition.

Their resolution of the conundrum is that the proteins in the lens of the eye are transparent for much the same reasons as is glass.

The essence of the puzzle about the transparency of the eye lens is that about a third of it by weight consists of protein, most of the remainder being water. So much can be told from the stickiness of the material extracted when the lens of an animal eye is punctured.

It is now known that the principal protein in the lens belongs to one of three families known as crystallins. Delage and Tardieu have measured the scattering of X-rays by material taken from the eye lenses of animals to show that the old explanation of transparency, always implausible on biological grounds, is far from the truth.

The molecules of the three types of crystallin in the lens turn out to be arranged in a more or less random fashion, but nevertheless are arranged over much shorter distance scales in a way that minimizes local scattering by the atoms.

The most telling results of the experiments now described from Paris are those in which X-rays are scattered from less material diluted with various proportions of water.

The X-ray scattering experiments reveal a loose correlation between the positions of groups of protein molecules extending over distances of about 500 inter-atomic spacings, suggestive of the phenomenon known as "short-range order".

According to the authors of the measurements, the short-range order revealed by the X-ray measurements implies that the lens of the eye scatters only a fortieth as much visible light as would be scattered by a solution of independent randomly arranged molecules.

Such a poor performance would show every image of the outside world as a scene embedded in turbidity.

That conclusion points to the underlying objective of this research, to understand cataract formation. As yet, however, there is no clear indication whether cataracts are a consequence of too little short-range order or of too much long-range order, crystallinity.

Source: *Nature*, March 31, 1983 (vol. 302, p. 415).

Nature-Times News Service, 1983.

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**Abbey to pump £100m into inner-city housing**  
By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

**Unions renew pressure on publishing company**  
From David Feiton, Labour Correspondent, Dundee

**Court told by disc jockey of smoke-screen**  
Mr Noel Edmonds, the disc jockey, told a jury yesterday that he believed his business partner began laying a smoke-screen after their venture began to go wrong.

**Record price for firemark**  
By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

**Muesli craze may be here to stay**  
The present health craze has led to a boom in the sales of high fibre, bran-based breakfast cereal, according to a report published yesterday.

**Sale room**  
Phillips secured an auction record price for a firemark yesterday when an English private collector paid £2,750 (estimate £1,000-£1,500) for an oval lead mark stamped with the Hanoverian arms for the Royal Irish Assurance Company and dated 1823.

**Record price for firemark**  
The sale of firemarks and fire memorabilia made a total of £25,112, with 6 per cent unsold. Glendon and Co sold every lot in their sale of Norman and Plantagenet coins from the famous collection formed by the late F. Elmore Jones. The sale totalled £82,215, with the top prices coming among the coins from the reign of Stephen (1135-1154).

**Record price for firemark**  
In Christie's sale of orders and medals, a client described as "a king" consigned the Russian Imperial Order of St. Andrew, made for an ancestor around 1900. It sold for £7,000 (estimate £4,000-£5,000) to Graf A. von Kienau, a Munich dealer.

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TT3



## Fashionable slimming short cuts may be harmful, magazine says

By Clive Cookson

Fashionable short cuts to slimming, such as starch blockers, appetite suppressants and high protein powders, are a waste of money and could even be harmful, the Consumers Association says today.

After testing every slimming product on the British market, the association found nothing more effective than a conventional low calorie diet.

Starch blockers, which reached Britain from the United States last year, have now been banned in America, according to the association's magazine *Which?*

They are supposed to block the enzyme which helps to digest starch, but the Consumers Association experts say they do not work and if they did the results would be "uncomfortable and unsociable".

The message on appetite suppressants is similar. Neither suppressants containing a bulking agent which swells up in the stomach nor those containing sugar really work.

*Which?* also advises slimmers

to avoid high protein powders to replace meals. More evidence is needed about their effectiveness and their potential health risks, it says.

However, the Consumers Association does say that low calorie versions of everyday foods and drinks can be useful and some meal-substitutes such as special chocolate-bars to be eaten with a drink, may be worth trying at the beginning of a diet.

The magazine also looks at two new diets which hit the headlines last year. The verdict on the Beverly Hills diet by Judy Meehan is "Don't try it, it will make a big hole in your pocket and it could have a bad effect on your health." But *Which?* likes the F-plan diet by Audrey Byton "because it seems balanced, healthy and easy to follow".

The report is based on a *Which?* survey of 1,000 slimmers, in addition to analysis by Consumers Association nutritionists and medical experts. Only 56 of the 384 people who

had tried either type of appetite suppressant found it any help at all.

Meal substitutes received more support: 151 out of 475 panel members found slimming biscuits a useful substitute for meals. However, only 107 out of 467 were helped by starch-reduced rolls.

Psychological help may be more important than specific foods. *Which?* reports that two thirds of the people who joined slimming support groups thought that they provided a useful way to lose weight.

● The average Briton consumes three times more salt than he really needs, Professor Arnold Bender, head of nutrition at Queen Elizabeth College, London, said yesterday. Excessive consumption of salt can lead to high blood pressure.

Professor Bender said that the average daily intake in Britain was 10 grammes of salt, and some salt addicts eat 30 grammes or more a day. A dose of only 100 grammes of salt can be fatal.



## High price for pigeon's heroism

A rare "animal VC" awarded to a pigeon named Mercury during the Second World War sold at a Christie's auction in London yesterday for £5,000.

Mercury (also shown) won the Dickin Medal, as it was originally known, for the "most outstanding single performance" of any one pigeon on special service. She made a non-stop flight of 480 miles on July 30, 1942, carrying a secret message from a Danish resistance group in north

Denmark. Of the 100 pigeons who started the mission, only Mercury returned to her loft.

The medal, with documentation, was bought by an agent for Mr Louis Massarella for the Royal Pigeon Racing Association.

Mercury, a blue hen, is the most famous of 31 pigeons to have been awarded the Dickin Medal. The Army Pigeon Service discovered Mercury, bred by the late Mr James Catchpole, of Ipswich.

Mr Harold Catchpole, his son, who sold the medal, recalled how the bird was recruited. He said: "The Army took two birds from each of 50 fanciers, including my father, and said it was for something special."

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals at Woking, in Surrey, awarded the medal to Mercury in 1946.

Mr Catchpole, aged 62, said yesterday: "The price paid is far beyond my expectations."

## Team from France in shop thefts

A French junior rugby team has left West Yorkshire for home in disgrace after the whole party, 16 juveniles and 10 supporters, was arrested for shoplifting.

A West Yorkshire police spokesman said that £200 of goods, mainly sportswear, was taken from three shops in Bradford.

"All of the property except one jumper was recovered. None will be appearing in court," he said.

The group, from Villeneuve-Avignon, had been invited by Shaw Cross Boys Club, Dewsbury, and a civic reception was given by Mr Jack Wood, the Mayor.

"They presented me with a picture of their town and a bag of prunes from the area. I would put this escapee down to high spirits," Mr Wood said.

## Driving ban on rugby forward

Richard Moriarty, the Welsh international rugby forward, was fined a total of £120 yesterday for driving offences and disqualified from driving for 18 months.

Moriarty, aged 25 and unemployed, of Neath Road, Plasmar, Swansea, pleaded guilty before city magistrates to a drink-driving charge, taking a car without the owner's consent, and twice driving without a licence and insurance, the second time when taking documents to a police station. He was given an absolute discharge on both insurance offences.

## £370,000 award to widow

Agreed damages of £372,862 were awarded in the High Court in London yesterday to Mrs Margaret Dobbins, whose husband, an engineer, died in a helicopter crash while working in the Arabian Gulf.

Mrs Dobbins, aged 50, of Milford Hill Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, was awarded the damages, with costs, against Textron Incorporated, of Texas, manufacturers of a Bell 212 helicopter which fell into the sea off Abu Dhabi in 1978, killing her husband.

## Killer drowns

A man who died after jumping into the sea at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, during a gale on Monday, was identified yesterday as Robert Thornton Small, aged 53, who was released from prison last month after serving 12 years of a life sentence for murdering his wife and killing his three children.

## Forest go-ahead

The Countryside Commission has withdrawn its objections to the Forestry Commission plan to plant a coniferous forest on 370 acres of fell land at Grassguards in Dummerdale in the Lake District national park.

## Fewer young people smoke, survey finds

By a Staff Reporter

Fewer children are smoking. A survey of 20,000 pupils and college students in the North of England shows rates of regular smoking rising from 0.3 per cent of children aged 9, to 24 per cent of those aged 15 and 16.

The results, published yesterday, of the survey by the Cancer Research Campaign indicate the proportion of smokers is considerably lower than similar, though less extensive, surveys conducted a few years ago.

For example, the new results indicate that 4 per cent of boys and 2.5 per cent of girls aged 11 and 13 smoke at least once a week. A survey in 1975 indicated that 8 per cent of boys and 5 per cent of girls smoked at those ages.

Dr Anne Charlton, of Manchester, who carried out the survey for the campaign, distributed 20,000 anonymous questionnaires through primary and secondary schools and colleges of further education late last year. All pupils in a

given institution completed the forms simultaneously and sealed them in manila envelopes.

The answers indicate that health warnings about smoking are being acted upon.

The survey also disclosed that the health of some young smokers is already beginning to suffer. Thirty-two per cent of children who consume six or more cigarettes a week reported frequent coughs, compared with 22 per cent of non-smokers.

Parents have a strong influence on their children's smoking habits and it seems that parental attitudes are much more important than whether parents smoke.

Seventeen per cent of children with a parent who smokes are regular smokers, compared with 10 per cent with non-smoking parents. However, nearly half the children who thought that their parents would not mind their smoking did not mind their parents disapproving.

## Jailed witness to appeal

A prosecution witness who was jailed for two years for contempt of court because he refused to give evidence, had been freed on bail at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, pending an appeal against the sentence. Samuel Forrest, aged 37, of 18 Newark Drive, Wigan, Lancashire, was jailed on March 13 by Hamilton Sheriff Court after

he refused to give evidence four times.

He was the main prosecution witness against Alexander McFarlane, aged 41, of 6 Caplaw Place, Glasgow, who was accused of assaulting him.

Forrest refused to tell the jury what happened to him and then, during the trial, he refused to answer Mr McFarlane's questions.

## No state aid to visit graves

By David Hewson

The Government is unlikely to agree to a request to allow Second World War widows to fly at public expense to the graves of Servicemen killed abroad in an extension of the visit to the Falklands by relatives of men killed in the South Atlantic campaign.

The Ministry of Defence last night ruled out the question of any mass dispensation for such visits. The problem is quite simply one of scale. We could not do this for the thousands of people who would be involved, spokesman said.

There are about 64,000 widows of Servicemen killed on duty before 1967 when the Government introduced a policy of providing facility visits to the graves of men who died after that date.

Most were widowed in the Second World War, and lost

husbands in northern Europe. The geographical spread of graves covered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which cares for graves from both world wars, extends from Hong Kong, throughout Asia, the Middle and Near East, and Europe, to Canada and the West Indies.

The largest number of graves tended by the commission is in France, where 600,000 servicemen are buried, 500,000 from the First World War. The second largest group, 200,000, is in Belgium.

Mr Alastair Laing, the deputy director-general of the commission, said yesterday: "Naturally we welcome visitors to any of these places and will provide any information we can on them. What we cannot do is pay for relatives to visit the graves. These graves virtually

span the globe. They are in 140 different countries and territories."

If the decision to offer free travel to service graves to a relative and companion were extended to families of those killed in 1967, as Lady Jeger has suggested in a House of Lords question, the main beneficiaries would be the widows of men killed in the Second World War. But the decision would also affect relatives of the victims of campaigns in Palestine, Borneo, Kenya, Aden, Cyprus and Malaya, and a number of more minor engagements.

Some widows of men killed in the First World War would also be offered the chance to visit the graves, though it is thought that few would be able to stand the journey.

Leading article, page 15

## Napley onslaught on police searches

Sir David Napley, the former president of the Law Society, criticized yesterday what he described as the "real evil" of police searches in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

Addressing the council of the Newspaper Society, he said that many aspects of the Bill were misguided and that he doubted whether the proposed legislation would make "the slightest difference to the general incidence of crime".

Sir David said: "The real evil of the changes in the Bill is that of police searches and the

manner in which they are carried out."

"Anyone who has had any experience of a police search can be sure that they do not restrict their investigation to the material which is directly germane to the subject of their inquiries."

"They take the opportunity of pursuing a roving commission over all information confidential or otherwise on which they can lay their hands. This is objectionable."

● Sir Cyril Phillips, chairman of the Police Complaints

Board, said yesterday that another parliamentary Bill would be needed to get anything like the balance of power between police and public that had been sought by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, of which he had been chairman (Peter Evans writes).

Tape-recording of evidence and an independent prosecuting system were proposed by the commission to balance extra powers recommended for the police, but Sir Cyril said that they did not form part of the present Bill, which sought a different kind of balance.

## Warning to Falklands 'settlers'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Would-be settlers in the Falklands, tempted by offers of 100-acre plots at £1,500 each, are unlikely to be able to make a living, Mr Ted Fellows, the deputy editor of *Farmers Weekly*, says.

Hundreds of land-hungry people in Britain have been taken with the idea of buying plots either from the Falkland Islands Company or from Mr Harry Cann, a Chesterfield businessman, he says.

But after visiting the islands, Mr Fellows concludes that unimproved land can support only about one sheep to every five acres.

Topsoil and the hard clay subsoil are separated by an iron pan which would need to be broken up with deep cultivation equipment to grow root crops, he says.

Although the Armed Forces represent a substantial potential market for horticultural produce, their buyers will not commit themselves without an adequate marketing infrastructure.

The cost of providing suitable protection for crops against the wind would be prohibitive, even if markets could be found, Mr Fellows states.

"Quite apart from the lack of commercial potential offered by these diminutive plots, there remains the difficulty of coping with the harsh winter conditions, for which the Falkland Islands are famous, and with the need to be almost entirely self-sufficient."

## Non-nuclear defence plan sought

By Nicholas Timmins

A call for a non-nuclear "non-provocative" defence policy for Europe was issued yesterday by a new organization called Just Defence.

The organization, formed by a group of eminent scientists, prelates and military officers, aims to provide a forum rather than a simple policy for finding a way out of what it calls the "sterile polarization" of the defence and disarmament debate, in which unilateralism is lined up against multilateralism.

It argues that Britain and Europe should adopt policies which are clearly perceived as non-aggressive by the Soviet Union, using new technologies to provide purely defensive forces in Europe, with no land-based nuclear weapons.

The threat of nuclear blackmail would be counteracted by the continuing presence of the strategic nuclear arsenals of the Soviet Union and the United States, the group argues; but the risk of nuclear war would be reduced by removing the policy of flexible response.

Founded by Mr Stan Windass, director of the Foundation for Alternatives, with Professor Frank Barnaby, the former director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the group's advisory council includes General Sir Hugh Beach, a former head of procurement for the Army, Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, president of the Pugwash conference and the Rt Rev Hugh Montefiore, Bishop of Birmingham.

## Code for video trade

## War declared on the 'nasties'

By Kenneth Goelling

One of the strongest measures so far taken to try to end the trade in video "nasties" was announced yesterday, with the introduction of a voluntary classification code backed up by the registration of video dealers.

Under the scheme introduced by the British Videogram Association (BVA), retailers who fail to register by next September will be forced out of business by having legitimate supplies of cassettes and discs withheld. Any member of the BVA, representing 50 member companies, who continues to supply unregistered dealers will be expelled.

The Government has expressed its preference for

voluntary measures, but if they fail legislation will be introduced.

Mr Donald MacLean, chairman of the BVA, said that legislation was wanted by very few and "would be fraught with undesirable side-effects".

Mr Iain Muspratt, BVA vice-chairman, said that retailers who chose to stay outside the scheme would have "no business, no future". He agreed that the scheme constituted a restrictive trade practice, but added: "We do not expect that to be a problem."

Classification will start at once. A videogram standards council, under a chairman to be named shortly, will be formed from representatives of videogram publishers, wholesalers, retailers, and four people unconnected with the industry. Because consistency is regarded as important the categories will tally with those used for cinema films. They will be displayed in every shop and marked clearly on every cassette. That is expected to remove any confusion over titles that conceal the real content of the cassette of disc.

Mr MacLean with the new symbols: U, for all; PG, parental guidance needed; 15 or 18, passed for people aged 15 or 18 and over; Restricted 18, for sale only in shops barred to children; Uc, children's film; no certificate.

The intention, the BVA says, is to provide the public with the means of making an informed choice about programme content and to isolate the video "nasties".

Asked by a questioner who identified himself as the "video nasty correspondent" of *Video Viewer* to choose their least favourite scenes from "nasties", BVA officials refused to be drawn.

Mr Norman Abbott, chief executive of the BVA, said that he had sat on the working party established to examine a code for the industry.

"I am trying to obliterate from my memory the terrible things we were subjected to," he said. "Some of the films were so bad that I had to stop watching them. Most of the dealers and many parents had asked for the scheme, he said. Categories will appear in shops, which show limitation

## Luxury image for stations

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Luxury restaurants and shopping centres will be built in London's main line stations to make them attractive social centres on continental lines, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, predicted yesterday.

As part of its general plan to bring private capital into public industry, the Government is giving maximum encouragement to bring restaurateurs, retailers, and property developers into station development to help dispel the image of British railway stations as places of "dust, dirt, cigarette ends, and cold waiting rooms".

Already five stations, Euston, Blackfriars, Holborn, Cannon Street and London Bridge, have been developed. Another five, Liverpool Street, Broad Street, Fenchurch Street, Victoria, Waterloo and King's Cross, were in the pipeline with more ambitious ideas. Mr Howell indicated. Two more, Paddington and St Pancras, would follow.

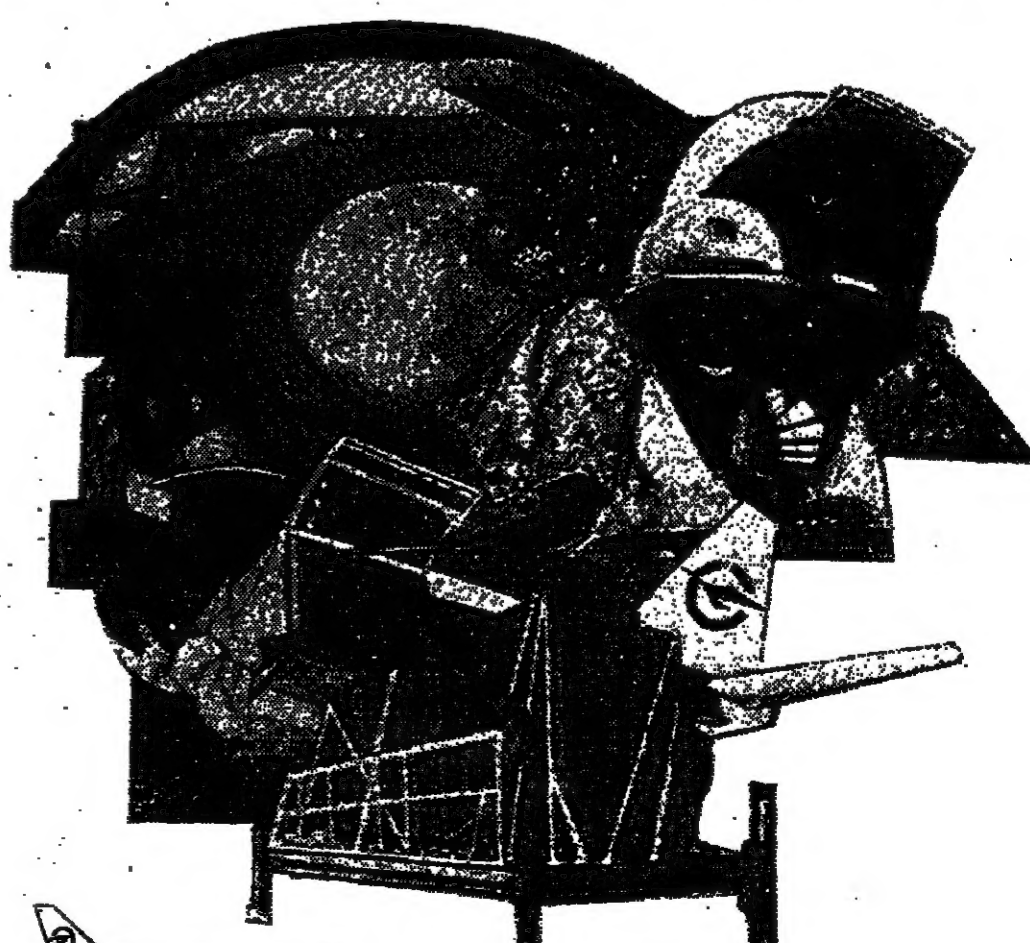
At Waterloo, where he had an early morning walkabout among uncomplaining commuters, a choice of sites was being offered to private restaurateurs to provide a luxury restaurant of the kind that made Paris stations attract people, rather than drive them out. There were also plans for a mezzanine shopping centre over the platforms and concourse.

## 'Cocktail' boy in hospital

Richard McBride, aged nine, was in hospital nursing a hangover yesterday after a drinking spree with four young friends.

The boy, from The Horse-shoe, Godalming, Surrey, had consumed a "cocktail" of sherry, cooking oil, tomato ketchup, garden plant food and Carlsberg special beer. The police found him staggering about and obviously very drunk.

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## Pym still backs Reagan plan for Middle East

### MIDDLE EAST

If peace negotiations over the Middle East were to begin there was no practical alternative to the proposals of President Reagan as the starting point, Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, declared in the Commons. These proposals, he added, constituted an opportunity which would not recur and therefore must be seized urgently.

It is essential (he went on) that the forces of moderation, not least the PLO, carry the day. It is the Palestinians themselves who stand to lose the most if they do not. Likewise, it remains essential that all foreign forces should withdraw quickly from Lebanon and that the unacceptable settlement programme on the West Bank should be halted. Israel has a heavy responsibility in both cases.

Our own approach continues to rest on the principles set out in the Venice Declaration. We are encouraging all those working for peace to the limit of our ability and are in close touch with them. The role of the United States Government, both in the Lebanon talks and in the wider peace process, of course remains central.

He added that the assassination of Mr Isam Sartawi, PLO moderate, at the Socialist International meeting in Portugal, had been a setback to peace efforts.

Mr David Watkins (Consett, Lab):

Was the question discussed of Israel's legal occupation and fortification of southern Lebanon and the West Bank, both of which are in direct contravention to the Reagan initiative. What efforts is the Government making in regard to these twin obstacles to peace in the Middle East?

Mr Pym: The Government's views on both these issues were discussed at length at the Arab League delegation and have been touched on in all recent discussions.

Mr Michael Latham (Milton, C): Having met King Hussein and also King Fahad, will he be going to Israel to meet the Israelis?

Mr Pym: I have no plans at the moment to do so, but it is always possible.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Leeds, East, Lab): I agree with the Foreign Secretary that the Reagan proposals still represent the best framework for a way forward, but would he not agree the central problem has been the Begin Government's rigid and unconditional refusal to negotiate on these proposals?

Mr Pym: The Reagan initiative has failed to influence the Israeli government either to withdraw troops from the Lebanon or freeze the settlements on the West Bank which has been turned into a fortress. We hear of the Israeli government's plan to build 57 new settlements on the West Bank in the next four years.

Does the government's approach



Pym: Starting point.

to the Reagan initiative seek to dissuade the Israeli government from these courses?

Mr Pym: Throughout the whole of this dispute, ever since President Reagan's plan was proposed, we have been urging with all strength at presidential, secretary of state and all levels, that the United States use their influence to cause a change of approach to be brought about by Israel. It is regrettable that their influence has not brought a withdrawal of all forces from the Lebanon which King Hussein and other Arab leaders regard as a prerequisite before negotiations can begin.

It is regrettable not to see more flexibility on the part of Israel and the PLO, because blame does not lie in one place. We have made the strongest representations.

Mr Russell Johnston (Gower, L): The assassination of Mr Sarrawi was indicative that there are more extremist elements coming to the fore in the PLO and more action is taking place on the West Bank. Can he bring this in the strongest possible terms to the attention of President Reagan?

Mr Pym: That murder was deplorable and it is regrettable so everybody, I am not sure it is true to say more terrorism is coming forward. Certainly there is a risk of that and this is a bad example.



Healey: Best framework.

There are divisions within the PLO which make negotiations extremely difficult. It should be regretted that the PLO could not come to an agreement with King Hussein because that would have been a helpful aspect to progress in these negotiations.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C): The comment by General Eitan on the proposed settlements on the West Bank was in blatant disregard of international opinion. Was not that the reason for the breakdown in peace negotiations?

Mr Pym: A number of people on both sides do make rather rash comments which are unhelpful. The comment on the proposal to increase by 57 the number of settlements on the West Bank at the time it was made and in the circumstances in which it was made, was an offensive statement to make.

It is the British Government's view that these settlements are illegal and contrary to the Reagan plan and the sooner this is reversed the better.

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Finance Bill, second reading, Lords (3): British Shipbuilders Bill, report. Debate on EEC committee report on borrowing and lending.

## Ezra on choosing state industry chairmen

### HOUSE OF LORDS

In paying a ridiculous fee for the services of Mr Ian MacGregor the Government has established a dangerous precedent, Lord Taylor of Gryffe (SDF) said when he opened a debate on the problems besetting relations between the Government and the nationalised industries. He said it might have to pay similar fees in future to British companies from which it hoped to attract top management.

Labour regarded state industries as essentially virtuous while the Conservatives saw them as an evil which must be liquidated as quickly as possible, irrespective of whether this made good sense or was in the best interests of the nation.

Would the shadow of the threats from both sides encourage management to make the long-term plans and investment decisions that were essential and attract the first class management necessary if these industries were to succeed?

The trouble (he said) is that we are caught up in a debate about ownership when we should be discussing efficiency. The first requirement for efficiency is to get your structure right so that we may recruit the best people to manage the industries and then permit them to manage.

Lord Besswick, for the Opposition, said it was possible to have a friendly and constructive relationship with a sponsoring department but the Treasury was a different matter. He was not sure that the conscientious characters who were collectively he did not think they were now fitted for the role of financiers to commercial enterprises in the public sector.

Some different methods of finance need not, and must not, slacken financial discipline but they could mean a profound psychological improvement which in turn could yield significant economic benefits.

No amount of structural change would avail unless the spirit which breathed through that structure was right. The self-interested or selfish

society carried its own seeds of destruction. To those who looked to an alternative and more hopeful future public or social ownership would have a part to play.

Lord Oxburgh (C) said he could not go along with the proposal that financing requirements of nationalised industries should be excluded from the public sector borrowing requirement.

The total cost of the nationalised industries in write-offs and capital grants since 1945 had been £40,000m. No one had yet solved the problem of how to stop a monopoly power backed by the taxpayers from plunging the private sector competitors into bankruptcy.

Lord Harris of High Cross (Ind) said that in the 10 years from 1970 to 1980 the net revenue of the nationalised industries was about £25,000m, less than its total payroll. Yet over that period the average prices of those industries' products rose 25 per cent faster than the general price index.

Lord Kers (L), former chairman of the National Coal Board, said he had been in a nationalised industry for 35 years. For 35 years (he went on) we are no nearer a solution of this problem. One would have thought that a society such as ours could at least over that timescale have found some way of reconciling itself with the concept of public ownership.

If one wanted to criticize, say, the coal industry it was no good comparing it with a multiple store. What one had to compare it with was other coal industries in western Europe in like situations. They suffered from similar problems.

The publicly-owned enterprises generally happened to be in the basic sector, at the heavy end of the industrial economy. Everyone who had studied the subject knew that there was a structural change going on and how to face up to it.

As chairman of the NCB he had been the target of attack by ministers either for putting prices up by too much or by not enough. They had to work out ground rules for the owners of nationalized industries - represented by the

Government - and the managers which were consistent, clearly defined and which made sense.

Attention should be drawn to the somewhat curious manner in which chairmen and members of boards were appointed. They ought to try to devise a better system for doing this, and he suggested setting up a group of eminent personalities who could make recommendations of the sort of people who should be appointed to these jobs.

Names appeared to be deliberately leaked. It was not a rational way of operating in respect of those who were meant to lead these important enterprises.

There were certain sectors which were likely to remain publicly owned. Could it not be agreed that

the nationalisation system had proved a failure overall. For the first time since the war the size of the publicly-owned sector of industry was being reduced on a significant scale and the return of the Government at the next election would see this process continue.

Through its programme of privatization the Government had reduced the burden of the public sector on the rest of the economy. It had achieved this both through the proceeds from sales of assets, which reduced the public expenditure planning total, and through the removal of any future borrowing requirements from the PSBR.

By the end of 1982-83 the programme of special asset sales would have brought in receipts of about £2,000m and at least a further £2,500m was expected over the next three years. All these receipts directly reduced the PSBR with all that implied for inflation, taxes, interest rates and employment.

The Government's drive for efficiency was not restricted to privatization and the introduction of private finance. The public utilities and so-called "natural monopolies" could not be allowed permanently to remain unchallenged.

It was a vital part of the Government's policy to foster competition in the industries wherever monopoly powers existed. Already it had taken steps to encourage competition in telecommunications, energy supply, transport and postal services. It would not hesitate to take further action where this was necessary.

Exposing the industries to the full vigour of competitive pressures in the market place was vital to the economic resurgence of Britain. Industries containing one-tenth of productive capacity could not be left to be feather-bedded either by monopoly powers or by knowledge that the public purse was always open to them. The Government was proud of its success in this area and intended to press on with renewed vigour in the next Parliament.

The debate concluded.

The Earl of Gower, for the Government, said it believed that

in these cases at least there was some continuity of policy and an attempt to try to right some of the things that had gone wrong over the past 35 years?

Here was an issue which went beyond party barriers - an issue which related to the success of the industrial economy. The aim should be to make sure these sectors should be run as efficiently as possible and enable them to do so, by the way in which the Government dealt with them.

The Earl of Gower, for the Government, said it believed that

had been enough generalized waffle. He was not going to go down to specific policy making and costing.

Why did the pension plan promise the realization of earnings link but the other decision was that step was no longer an immediate one but would be taken as soon as was practicable?

The pension plan promised free TV licences for pensioners but the other decision was that the change would be phased out during the lifetime of the Labour Government. There was a certain amount of explaining required from the Opposition.

The best way to settle would be for the Opposition to set out their proposals and costings and publish them.

The Government did not intend to make promises that could not be kept, but did intend to safeguard the living standards of pensioners' and others on social security benefits. The Government stood on its record.

Mr Brynner Jell, chief Opposition spokesman on social security, moved an Opposition amendment declining a second reading of the Bill which, through a technical adjustment, would "fail to compensate social security beneficiaries by the full amount of inflation at the end of November, thus imposing a hidden penalty on the lowest incomes in the country".

He said the Secretary of State was Doe Fowler, the itinerant medicine man with products curing everything from dandruff to diarrhoea. Not for him doubts, nor any room for an opinion other than his own.

The criticism of Mr Fowler was not that there were no weaknesses in the forecast method, that there were. The criticism was that Mr Fowler tried to pretend that the historic method of uprating was without flaw.

It was no good trying to compensate pensioners who died before the next uprating, or the unemployed who had to live with a 4 per cent uprating and 6 per cent inflation when they later became employed. They could never be compensated for the gap. He preferred a forecast method but conceded that it was not without flaws.

Mr Fowler had not given a categorical assurance today that the June announcement would be implemented in November. If he failed to meet that date it would be crucial to the gap between forecast and implementation was no longer inevitable.

Mr Fowler intervened to say that the difficulty was the weekly payments system which most pensioners appeared to want and so long as that was so, what Mr John wanted was not possible.

Mr Jell said that once that gap was closed, pensioners would not be so badly affected.

The May inflation figure was likely to be 4 per cent, likely to be the lowest for this year and many more in future. By the forecast method the Government would

have had to uprate by 6 per cent. By using the lowest month they believed they could save £500m by a disguised, and they hoped, unobserved clawback of 2 per cent of the 2.7 per cent they had overpaid last year.

The Bill could result in a married couple losing between \$0p and £1.05 a week and a single person between 50p and 65p a week.

The only consolation in the whole of this operation (he said) is that the extreme Robin Hood story of arming the poor at the expense of Maid Margaret, have been found out.

While he preferred the forecast method, he would not go to the stake for it. There was no need for the Opposition to vote against the Bill if the Government were to give an undertaking that if it turned out that inflation in November was higher than in May, the Government would immediately move to correct that social security beneficiaries did not lose out by the change.

If they gave that undertaking, Labour was not doing it. The minister was shaking his head and he presumed Hansard would record that as a refusal.

It is about what I thought (he said) - an attempt to smuggle a pensioners' cut in the standard of living of the poorest in the land. That will outrage everyone. The Opposition has to record the revulsion at such devices trickery.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgmont, C) said, the present system of forecasting was a disaster. It had proved wrong five times out of seven and was getting worse. No responsible government could continue to use a calculating method which was so patently useless.

She had to express her disgust at the way pensioners were manoeuvred for political reasons into getting into buses and coming to the House of Commons by leaving people seeking political advantage. She had received complaints of pensioners being offered £15 and a free day in London if they would lobby the House.

Mr David Eassels (Norwich North, Lab) said the Bill was a shabby method of treating not only 10m pensioners but millions of other beneficiaries who were now going to get in November an increase which would be significantly lower than they would have done if the forecasting method had been carried out.

If the uprating was to be based on the May figures, pensioners could get an increase of 2 per cent less than the inflation rate. It could be as much as 3½ per cent less in the month when they got their money. And they would have to live with that during the next 12 months. The Government's intentions were mean, petty, squalid and despicable.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C) said pensioners deserved to be treated honestly. The Opposition's arguments tended to cause confusion. The Bill gave pensioners security.

## Joint decision rather than need for veto

### NUCLEAR DEBATE

The absence of modernized intermediate weapons would leave a gap in the West's deterrent strategy, Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons during exchanges in which Mr Frank Ainslie (Salford, West, Lab) asked if the Government intended to press for power to veto cruise launches, meaningless though that would be.

Mr Pym explained that the question of a veto did not arise because these weapons could only be used on the basis of joint decision. There was no question of veto.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs (Leeds, East, Lab): Will he not accept the views of Field Marshal Lord Carver that there is no military case for the deployment of these weapons and accept the growing evidence that their actual deployment would be immensely damaging to public security?

Will he therefore drop these proposals and ally himself with the great majority of people on both sides of the Atlantic who would support a freeze on the deployment of nuclear weapons.

Mr Pym: I totally reject what he says. The last Labour Government was a party to considering and agreeing that the question of modernization should be addressed. It has been addressed and brought to conclusion by this Government. I am certain that the absence of modernized intermediate nuclear weapons leaves a gap in our deterrent strategy.

We have meeting against us a strongly increasing number of SS20s and other weapons, and unless we modernize our own weapons - our present ones are ageing and outdated - there will be a gap in our deterrent.

The whole basis of our defence policy is to deter war and preserve peace. We cannot afford to let Nato have any gap in that shield and that is why we are proceeding with these modernizations unless the Soviet Union are prepared to negotiate the zero option.

Mr Healey: The word "modernization" applied to these weapons is totally misleading because they have never been any intermediate land based missiles since Thor and Jupiter were withdrawn after the Russians had begun deploying their SS4 and 5 missiles. To pretend that is modernizing the short launch battlefield nuclear weapons being withdrawn by Nato is dishonest in the extreme.

Mr Pym: That is not the proposal at all. What we are doing is an escalating number of SS20s, if we had not taken the decision to modernize we would have been exposed in that area.

Mr Pym said during later exchanges

that Mr Healey had changed his mind on cruise missiles. Mr Healey said Tories had suggested that his position on cruise had at one time been different from what it was now. That (he said) is absolutely untrue. (Labour cheers.)

● The Russians were accused by Mr Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, of being a negative, negative and obstructionist at the Geneva talks on intermediate range nuclear forces. Progress in the fourth round of the negotiations, which ended on March 13, was disappointing, he added later.

The Russians (he said) were obstructionist, and seem to have decided that they would try to appeal over the heads of the negotiators to public opinion in Western Europe.

They flatly refused to negotiate on the basis of the zero option. As a consequence of this, at the end of the round, the Russians, with Nato's full support, took the important step of offering to negotiate an interim agreement which would provide equal limits on the number of missiles on both sides of the Atlantic.

By definition an interim agreement is far short of the complete elimination of a whole system of missiles which the alliance wants to see, but it is the next best alternative.

Mr Michael McVale-Wilson (Newbury, C): Can he give any account of the Russian response to Ambassador Nitz's proposal? Is Mr Pym saying the balance will be struck now between getting a balanced reduction in nuclear warheads rather than total number of missiles deployed by both sides?

Mr Pym: The proposal tabled at the end of the last round has not yet been dealt with in detail at the negotiating table because there is a break between that round and the next one. But we have had an immediate, or almost immediate, and apparently total rejection of the proposal by the Russians. Their minister held another press conference, his third. It lasted a long time and seemed to be totally negative.

So whether we like it or not, the position taken by the Soviet Union is a negative one, extraordinarily unhelpful. We have been rightly pressed by all parts of the House to be as forthcoming and positive as we can on arms control proposals. And we have met those requests in conjunction with our allies. It is regrettable that we are receiving the response that we are.

Mr Frank Healey (Sheffield, Heeley, Lab): Is Mr Pym talking about the totality of nuclear weapons held by Nato countries as against that held by the Warsaw Pact?

Mr Pym: We want equality on both sides, a balance, verifiable on both sides. That is the best way to get the security to which both sides are entitled.

Mr Pym said during later exchanges

Falklands and many of the dead were the sons of shipyard workers. To place the order outside the United Kingdom was an insult to those who gave their lives in the war. It was also an insult to the war workers who had to get the task force ready on time.

Mr Pym: We have made clear to the Spanish that it is normal for

## EEC commitment to solve budget problem by June

### EEC BUDGET

Labour suggestions that a speech by M Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, at the European Parliament on Tuesday made clear that the Commission had no intention of taking part in negotiations for Britain's budget refund were answered by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary.

He confirmed that it was the wish of the EEC Council of Ministers that the issue should be resolved at the June Council meeting.

Mr Robert Hicks (Bosmin, C) called on the Foreign Secretary to confirm that it was still the British Government's intention that the issue of the 1983 rebate for the United Kingdom should be resolved at the June meeting.

Will that still be the case (he asked) in view of recent speculation that the Commission was not going to take part in the negotiations?

Mr Pym: That was the clear wish of the Council. We shall see how things develop. It was the clear intention, which was missing before, to resolve the budget question. I hope that it will be so, at the summit decided.

Mr Eric Hoffer, Opposition spokesman on European and Community affairs: At the European Assembly yesterday (Tuesday) Commissioner Thorn made clear that the Commission were not taking any part in the negotiations. Is it not clear that the Government's hopes for a June settlement have been dashed?

This underlines what MPs on all sides of this House have been saying, that the European Assembly was becoming a Parliament and flexing its muscles, taking decisions and putting Parliament like this one into an impossible position.

Mr Pym: I have not seen the text of President Thorn's speech but having been at the Council I know what was decided. The Commission acts in accordance with those decisions so I have every reason to be satisfied that what was decided will be carried out.

Mr Pym was later asked by Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C) to restate his objectives for EEC reforms in 1983 in the light of Council of Ministers meetings on March 21 and 22.

Mr Pym said: We have put forward proposals for developing European Community policy over the whole range of its activities. These include proposals for extending the internal market in goods and services, for reform of the operation of the

common agricultural policy, for building on the agreed framework for an energy strategy, for a lasting solution to the Community's budget problem and for extending the regional and social policies.

Our objectives have not changed as a result of the most recent meeting of the European Council, though progress was made towards achieving them.

Mr Taylor: Will he explain the position about the issue of rebates, which is vital for Britain, as without it we shall have to pay £1,500m or £2.5m a day.

Is it not serious if the Council of Ministers agree that we should get a rebate fixed in June and the President of the Commission agrees that the Commission is not in any way bound by the recommendations or decisions of that Council? What will he do if we do not get the rebate?

Mr Pym: Last month we received £58m for 1982 with more to come. The European Council agreed that United Kingdom refunds would be included in the budget for 1984.

There is a commitment to solve the problem by June. I believe that it will be adhered to, as an interim solution, until a permanent one can be found.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham, North-East, Lab): We are as far as ever from a permanent solution. During our membership we have handed over £4,000m, showing that we are grossly exploited by our richer neighbours.

Why, in equity, should we make any contribution at all and why should we not be a net beneficiary, as most other nations are?

Mr Pym: If it were not for the negotiations of this Government, we are grossly exploited by our richer neighbours. In recent years would not have been received at all, if we had left the situation we inherited from the Labour Government.

I do not agree that we are further away than ever from a lasting solution, precisely because there is a decision in the European Council to go for a lasting solution.

That has always been the British objective. We are much nearer achieving it than before.

Mr Heffer: Will he take into consideration the commitment of the Labour Party in our recent document in which we clearly say that British withdrawal from the Community is the right policy to be completed well within the lifetime of the next Parliament?

Mr Pym: I think he is on to an election loser there.

## Gibraltar's border

It was inconceivable that Spain should join the European Community while restrictions remained to ordinary traffic between Spain and Gibraltar, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions on the negotiations for the entry into the Community of Spain and Portugal.

Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab) asked: What is the Government's response to the Spanish protests about the invariable going to Gibraltar?

Mr Hurd: We have made clear to the Spanish that it is normal for

ships participating in exercise Spring Train, which is an annual exercise, to visit Gibraltar.

Sir Anthony Karshaw (Stroud, C): What can be done to bring home to the Spanish Government and the people the effect that these childish and ill-tempered outbursts are likely to have on Gibraltar?

Mr Hurd: It is inconceivable that Spain should join the Community while restrictions remain to ordinary traffic between Spain and Gibraltar. This was made clear to the Spanish foreign minister when he came here last month.

## Water authority Bill instruction

Lord Aberdare, chairman of committees, promised in the Lords to arrange for a select committee to consider the instruction successfully moved by Lord Beaumont of Whitley (L) in connection with the Severn-Trent Water Authority Bill.

The instruction was that special attention should be paid to the authority's feasibility report summary and to the consultants' report on the assessment of agricultural benefits and costs of the Soar Valley improvement scheme.

According to *The Times*, Mr Peter Shore was costing the proposals at £500m but Mr Foot was costing them at £3 billion. He (Mr Fowler) thought it would be between £13 and 15 billion. There

was no good trying to compensate pensioners who died before the next uprating, or the unemployed who had to live with a 4 per cent uprating and 6 per cent inflation when they later became employed. They could never be compensated for the gap. He preferred a forecast method but conceded that it was not without flaws.

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Mr David Eassels (Norwich North



## Seat belts saving lives and cutting injuries, police computers show

By Richard Evans

The first real proof that compulsory wearing of seat belts is saving lives and substantially reducing serious road injuries is beginning to emerge from police computers throughout Britain.

Accident casualty figures collated for February, when the seat belt law came into force, are helping to confirm, in many cases, the most optimistic predictions of doctors and road safety experts.

An investigation this week by *The Times* into the injury and death rate for the crucial group of car and light goods vehicle drivers and front seat passengers during February has disclosed that serious road injuries have fallen by up to half in some counties, compared with figures for the same month in 1982.

In the West Midlands, for example, there were four deaths, 90 serious injuries and 152 slight injuries among car drivers and front seat passengers in February, 1983. In contrast there were two deaths, 68 serious and 227 slight injuries this February.

The number of accidents causing damage only rose from 1,392 to 1,842 this February.

North Yorkshire road safety officials have gathered the most detailed statistics for all road users affected by the new law. Casualties fell from 148 to 89 and serious injuries were down from 66 to 30.

In Leicestershire casualties dropped from 199 to 168 during the first six weeks of the new law. In Suffolk the death and injury rate dropped from 99 to 87 but, more significantly, serious injuries were more than halved from 39 to 17.

Eight car drivers and front

Injuries of this kind have fallen remarkably.

our point to those people who believe the compulsory wearing of seat belts is an infringement of personal liberty. I do not think saving people's lives can ever be called an infringement of personal liberty", a spokeswoman said.

Dr Steve Ashton, of Birmingham University's accident research unit, described the new casualty statistics as encouraging. "They are definitely confirming all the evidence that has been coming out of hospital casualty departments recently."

"We would like to wait a little longer and compare more than one month before we say categorically what the magnitude of the effect of wearing seat belts is, but there does appear to be a definite reduction in the number of people who are being seriously injured since compulsory belt use came in", he said.

He claimed that the February figures, encouraging as they are, fail to reflect all the benefits of the new law, because the police definition of "serious" injury is so wide. "We would expect to see a lot of changes in the kind of injuries being received which are not reflected in the statistics."

A two-year investigation sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Security and led by Mr William Rutherford, head of the accident and emergency department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, is examining the changing pattern of road injuries after the introduction of the seat belt law.

"The consultants whom we meet are suggesting there is a reduction in head and facial injuries," Dr Michael Hayes, a member of the investigating team, said.



## Walking again after 14 years

Mrs Jan Burgess from Swansea, demonstrating in London yesterday how an electronic power pack that triggers muscles into action has helped her to walk again after being paralysed from the waist down for 14 years.

The device was developed by Dr Hugh Grenfell, a former chief research engineer with the Steel Company of Wales, who produces high technology for the disabled. Similar work is being done in the United States but Dr Grenfell's system avoids the use of computer and a mass of wiring.

Mrs Burgess began using the equipment last year. Because her muscles had wasted away she was at first only able to raise and lower her legs. However, she has been walking since February.

"There is now a real chance I will be able to climb steps and enter buildings" she said yesterday "instead of relying on people to lift me everywhere" (Photograph: Brian Harris).

## New plastics may be used to make reusable car tyres

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Lancaster

Experiments with a new generation of synthetic materials, copolymers, that may transform the manufacture of car tyres among other items, were described at a Royal Society of Chemistry conference at Lancaster University.

There is intense competition between several research groups in Europe and the United States to perfect this family of substances. The level of work was indicated yesterday by Dr David Richards, of the Ministry of Defence's Propellants Explosives Rocketry and Materials Research Establishment in Essex.

He described the advances in organic chemistry that have opened the way for a new generation of plastics that use less energy to produce, are stronger than their predecessors, and are reusable.

He outlined the research at a meeting on copolymers, plastics made from a combination of molecules. They form the bulk of industrial and heavy duty plastics.

The group that Dr Richards focused on is derived from butadiene, a material that is now used for some car tyres and for products such as briefcases and luggage.

One drawback of present materials is that at those temperatures they pass through the "glass transition" boundary, lose their rubber-like qualities, and become distorted just as simple plastics do.

The new family of polymers can be moulded into shape and can be melted down and reused.

The vulcanizing process needed to introduce rigidity into the material of present day car tyres means that an old tyre cannot be easily reused; hence the environmental problem of old car tyres.

## 'Economist' uses satellite for US printing

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

A landmark in the history of the European printing industry will be reached today when pages of the American edition of *The Economist* are transmitted by satellite for printing in New England, US.

It is the first time that a European publication has used the transatlantic satellite, Intelsat V, on such a large scale for transmitting data for printing. The method will revolutionize the American operation of the British weekly and is expected to give it a marketing edge in the US as it attempts to compete, albeit modestly, with the mass-circulation *Newsweek* and *Time*. It is an important market for the British magazine, which sells about 40 per cent of its 2,480,000 copies in North America.

The pages will be set using video display terminals in north London where a photographic master is made of the copy. The master is scanned by a laser and the copy and pictures converted into electronic pulses. These pulses, called digital signals, are then transmitted to an earth station satellite aerial in Madley, Hertfordshire, by cable and beamed across the Atlantic via the satellite to Exon, Virginia.

Once in America the signals go by cable to Manhattan, New York, where the signals are converted back into pages and pictures onto a negative film. It is that film which is used as the master for printing the publication in Connecticut.

It will take about an hour to transmit the colour cover. Inside pages will take seven to eight hours.

The electronic transmission and printing are a marked contrast to the method previously employed for the American edition when film for the editorial cover was produced on a Wednesday night in London and flown to New York by Concorde on Thursday morning.

## Farmers claim over drainage loss

From Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent, Blackford

Farmers are to claim annual compensation of up to £100 an acre for not draining and ploughing high grade farmland on the Somerset Levels. The whole 2500 acres have been declared an official site of special scientific interest, which enables farmers to claim state compensation for lost profit.

Most of the land on the levels is owned by private farmers and had been the centre of a long dispute with naturalists about the operation of wildlife protection law. Mr Anthony Gibson, Somerset county secretary of the National Farmers' Union, said the union would seek compensation for members who were restrained from draining because they farmed on the bird refuge at West Sedgemoor on the levels.

Further north, a government order had prevented Mr Christopher Duckett from using drainage equipment on 70 acres of his land at Tealham Moor, although it has not yet been declared an official site of scientific interest. He said yesterday that in wet summer

his grazing land was sometimes under water.

Sir Richard Butler, the president of the union, said that it would support any appeal which Mr Duckett made against the order. His drainage scheme was installed with advice from the ministry of Agriculture.

But the Department of the Environment ordered him, on advice from the nature Conservation Council, not to use it. Seventy per cent of the ditches would not be affected, as the council wanted to see weeds in them, Sir Richard said.

# Why you can take coal for granted.

## Plus 50% of capital as low interest loan and 3% interest rebate.

The most widely-known advantage of using coal is that it is considerably cheaper than either oil or gas.

It reduces your energy costs which in turn cut unit costs, giving your company greater efficiency and a keener competitive edge in the market-place.

There are other advantages, however - less known, but just as significant.

### THE 25% GOVERNMENT GRANT SCHEME.

This scheme which has been extended until 31st December 1983 provides up to 25% of the total project capital cost of converting from oil and/or gas to coal-firing.

| IS YOUR COMPANY ELIGIBLE?                        |   |
|--|---|
| User of oil and/or gas as the main fuel?         | ✓ |
| Part of the manufacturing or service industries? | ✓ |
| Cost of new coal-fired project exceeds £15,000?  | ✓ |

All companies in the private manufacturing and most service industries are eligible, providing that oil and/or gas has been used to meet at least 75% of the process or heating requirement, and the scheme does not disqualify applicants from the benefit of other grants - Regional Development Grants for example.

The net cost of the new project must exceed £15,000.

If your company meets these requirements you could be well on the way to receiving the grant.

And if you are in a development or special

area, you could be in line for further grants.

### EVEN MORE HELP

In line with the extension of the Government Grant Scheme, Exchange Risk Cover Scheme Loans will also be available until the end of the year.

These two Schemes combined can provide up to 75% of the capital cost of converting from oil or gas to coal firing - 25% as grant and 50% as a preferential loan.

The loan scheme is also supported by a 3% interest rebate subsidy.

The combination of these facilities offers industry an unprecedented incentive to

convert to coal firing, and do not disqualify applicants from the benefit of other grants. Regional Development Grants for example. The total capital available to aid conversion is limited and therefore early application is advisable.

The NCB is also willing to assist by entering into favourable medium and long-term supply arrangements with individual customers.

GOOD FOR YOUR COMPANY. GOOD FOR BRITAIN.

It is within the power of coal to make British Industry more efficient, more cost-

effective, more competitive in world markets.

If we make the most of what coal has to offer, we will reduce the UK's dependence on oil and take the pressure off demand for the limited supplies of gas.

All of Britain will benefit. Your company included.

For information on the grant and loan schemes please write to one of these addresses:

Department of Industry, Charles House,  
375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH  
(or any regional DOI office).

Or for any information, National Coal Board,  
Technical Service, Marketing Department,  
Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**NCB**

TGS 14/4/83 Coal. The fuel with a future.



## Black vote wins Chicago

## Mayor tries to heal racial rift

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

With victory chants still ringing in his ears, Mr Harold Washington, who was narrowly elected the first black Mayor of Chicago, yesterday took steps to end the racial divisiveness which had scarred the city during two months of bitter campaigning.

Clearly aware of the urgent need to win the confidence of Chicago's white majority, Mr Washington, whose victory was achieved largely through a massive turnout of black voters, offered his hand "in friendship and fellowship to every living soul in this city". He added that "we must work as one people for our common good and our common goals".

As the last results came in it emerged that Mr Washington, twice elected to Congress who will be 61 on Friday, had captured about 52 per cent of the vote, while his Republican rival, Mr Bernard Epton, a Jewish liberal millionaire lawyer, received 48 per cent.

The turnout, estimated at 82 per cent, was the highest since the 1944 presidential election, reflecting the depth of feelings that has been aroused during this hard-fought campaign, probably the dirtiest in Chicago's 150-year history.

Voting took place along predictably racial lines, with Mr Washington capturing over 30 per cent of the ballot aided by

blacks, who turned out to vote in record numbers. Mr Epton won most of the white ethnic votes, even among those who traditionally vote Democrat.

However, Mr Epton performed less well than he had hoped among the city's 90,000-strong Spanish-speaking community, as well as among white middle-class liberals living in the smart blocks of flats that line the shore of Lake Michigan. It was these two groups that provided Mr Washington with his narrow victory margin.

Despite his defeat Mr Epton nevertheless achieved the largest vote for a Republican candidate in Chicago's history. The city has been run by Democratic mayors and a powerful Democratic party machine for the past 52 years, and until Mr Washington's victory in the Democratic primary last February Mr Epton was rated a total outsider.

The fact that he fared as well as he did - largely because white Democrats did not want to have a black as the city chief executive - will be a matter of deep regret to Mr Epton who has an excellent civil rights record. During the campaign he had tried in vain to discourage his supporters from exploiting the race issue and had instead concentrated his attacks on Mr Washington's personal integrity.

Mr Washington will succeed Mrs Jane Byrne, who has been mayor of the city for the past four turbulent years. Mr Washington defeated Mrs Byrne and Mr Richard Daley, the son of the former legendary Mayor of Chicago of the same name, in a tough, three-way primary election last February. Mr Washington's victory then, by gaining the solid support of the city's blacks, who comprise about 40 per cent of the 1.6 million registered voters.

Mr Washington yesterday predicted that a new national Democratic coalition would emerge as a result of his victory. "Out of the crucible of this city's most trying election, carried on the tide of the most massive voter turnout, blacks, whites, Latinos, Jews, gentiles, Protestants and Catholics of all stripes have joined hands to form a new Democratic coalition and to begin, in fact, a new Democratic movement."

However, Mr Epton rather sourly responded that Mr Washington will need all the help he can get if he is to run the city effectively. "His expertise in the area of finance certainly leaves a lot to be desired. But maybe he will learn to pay his bills promptly and certainly pay his taxes promptly."

This was a reference to the short prison term Mr Washington served for failing to file tax returns. Mr Washington had also been accused of not paying personal bills and had once been suspended from practising law for cheating his clients.

Mr Washington's victory will have important consequences at both local and national level. In Chicago he has pledged to overturn the political machine which has dominated the city for the past half century and, in particular, to end the notorious patronage system which has traditionally provided city bosses with most of their power.

Nationally it means that the Democratic Party can have a huge sigh of relief. A defeat for Mr Washington - due to a failure of white Democrats to support a black candidate - would have turned large numbers of blacks against the Democratic Party leadership. There have recently been persistent suggestions that the blacks might run their own Democratic candidate for president.

Leading article, page 15



Triumph: Mr Washington announcing his victory in the mayoral election.

## French pack their bags in Moscow

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Speculation that the Russians are about to retaliate against French diplomats in Moscow rose yesterday as the Soviet press stepped up its criticism of the expulsion of Soviet officials from Paris last week.

French diplomats said they felt that some sort of response was inevitable. "I've already packed my bags just in case," one diplomat said.

France expelled 47 Soviet diplomats and officials last Tuesday. Since there are fewer than 40 French diplomats in Moscow, the Soviet Union cannot respond in kind, but is expected to react by expelling a proportionately equivalent number.

The expelled Soviet officials in Paris represent a tenth of the total Soviet representation in France.

Diplomatic sources said it normally took the Soviet authorities several weeks to retaliate, but in recent cases Moscow has reacted more quickly.

Last Friday, a week after Britain had expelled two Soviet diplomats and a Soviet journalist, Moscow ordered Squadron Leader David Williams, the British assistant air attaché, and Mr Anthony Robinson, the Moscow correspondent of the *Financial Times*, to leave the country.

The two expelled Britons are to arrive at Heathrow on a British Airways flight today. Mr Robinson, one of the most widely respected foreign correspondents in Moscow, said before leaving that he hoped to return.

*Pravda* yesterday signalled that the "tit for tat" retaliations would continue by printing a Tass report condemning the "hysteria" and "provocative hullabaloo" surrounding the expulsion of Soviet officials from France.

The report said a "muddy wave of absurd allegations" about Soviet espionage had appeared in the French press "in the style of trashy detective stories". The report noted that the expulsions had been "leaked" in *The New York Times*, suggesting American connivance.

Tass carried a statement by a Soviet composer expressing bitterness and outrage at the expulsions, and an open letter from the deputy director of a Ukrainian engineering plant who said he had worked with French technicians and was sure they did not believe "this anti-Soviet slander."

## Peace tour of four capitals

Tegucigalpa (AFP) - Foreign Ministers of four Latin-American countries have arrived here after visiting three other central American capitals during the day on a mission to bring peace to the region.

The representatives of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama described their tour as a desperate effort to find a way to bring Nicaragua and Honduras to the negotiating table.

President Belisario Betancur of Colombia, who inspired the tour, said in Bogotá on Tuesday night that they were trying to head off "total war between the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. If they want to clash, let them seek other battlegrounds, away from Central America".

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The right-wing Nicaraguan Democratic Front claimed yesterday that its fighters were consolidating positions in north-western Nicaragua, and had repulsed an offensive by 4,000 Government troops on Tuesday.

Señor Betancur said the peace effort had received several setbacks in the past few hours, including an insulting letter from Señor Cordova of Honduras, a Colombian radio station reported.

But Señor Betancur said that Washington had indicated that it would accept the four-nation mission. He hoped Cuba and other countries would respond favourably.

MANAGUA: The Defence Ministry said that 283 soldiers on both sides had been killed or wounded in fighting between Government troops and Honduran-based exiles in the past two weeks (AP reports). A total of 197 rebels have been killed and 40 wounded, while Government casualties were 34 dead and 14 wounded.

SAN SALVADOR: The Government has freed 31 political prisoners in the past two weeks, but a Government spokesman said the move had nothing to do with a proposed amnesty for left-wing rebels, AP reports.

Captain Salvador Figueroa Morales, of the Salvadorean Army, has been arrested in connection with a massacre of at least 18 peasants in Sonsonate province last February, Reuters reports.

The plight of David Hempleman-Adams, the lone British Arctic explorer, grew more serious yesterday as weather conditions on the ice cap worsened. A light aircraft was unable to take off to drop rations to the explorer because a blanket of ice and fog covered much of the area.

Mr Hempleman-Adams, who is aiming to become the first man to walk solo to the North Pole, is stranded in a tiny tent and trying to preserve his few remaining supplies. He is thought to be on his last packets of food. The temperature is minus 35°C.

Although he is still in radio contact, members of his support team at Eureka, Canada, are becoming increasingly concerned by his physical and mental condition.

Military, economic and diplomatic cooperation between western industrialized countries and South Africa has increased during the past year, thereby strengthening and encouraging the policy of apartheid, and South Africa's hold over Namibia.

This is stated in a report by the United Nations Council for Namibia, which considers itself the legal authority of the territory controlled by South Africa.

Military and nuclear contacts between South Africa and the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Israel

and other Western countries were in violation of the arms embargo against Pretoria imposed by the UN Security Council in 1977.

Armstrong, the arms manufacturing corporation owned by the South African Government, has been able to produce under licence and acquire through purchases a wide range of sophisticated arms and related material. The council said that the growing relationship between South Africa and Israel in the military and nuclear fields was of particular concern.

It cited reports that South Africa, Israel and local authorities in Taiwan were cooperating in the development of a strategic cruise missile mounted on a small piloted jet, which would have the ability to avoid radar detection by flying at very low altitudes, and would maintain a nuclear warhead delivery capacity within a radius of 2,700 kilometres.

Although in the last few years the United States has superseded it in total volume of trade with South Africa, Britain has remained Pretoria's most important trading partner.

British industry continued to be involved in South Africa's main energy projects by supplying infrastructure, material and expertise, and in some cases British banking interests have provided loans for the projects.

The council also mentioned a 1982 report in the *Morning Star* of London, which said that British Electricity International was paying the wages of a senior official working on South Africa's nuclear programme in defiance of British Government policy.

The report recommends that the Security Council should proceed without delay to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

South Africa's nuclear programme in defiance of British Government policy.

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## The Middle East crisis



Middle East optimism: Mr Arafat and Mr Palme are all smiles after their talks in Stockholm on the chances of further negotiations based on the Reagan peace plan.

## Israel's man with a mission

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Samuel Flatto-Sharon took chocolate croissants and weak tea for breakfast yesterday then settled himself on the sofa of a well-appointed East Beirut apartment and refused to say anything about his reported efforts to secure the release of Israeli prisoners of war.

Was he negotiating on behalf of the Israeli Government? "No comment," Mr Sharon replied confidently. And according to the Israeli Defence Ministry, "No responsible authority in the army or the defence establishment empowered Mr Flatto-Sharon to negotiate on Israeli prisoners."

But lying conspicuously on a sofa with a sheaf of documents listing personal details and rank numbers of at least nine Israeli soldiers believed to be in Syrian or Palestinian hands.

Furthermore, officials of the Christian Phalange party in East Beirut seem quite convinced that Mr Sharon - a former member of the Knesset - is not only acting for the Israeli Army but has several PLO officials in the course of his visit to Lebanon.

Mr Flatto-Sharon is a man with a past. The French authorities have vainly sought his extradition from Israel after sentencing him in absentia to five years imprisonment for fraud and tax evasion.

In Israel itself, he is appealing against a nine-month prison sentence after being convicted of buying votes in the 1977 Knesset elections. In East Beirut, he was carrying his credentials as a former member of the Israeli parliament.

The Phalange, however, are under the impression that Mr Flatto-Sharon - despite his record - really is trying to secure the release of Israeli prisoners from Damascus and from Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Left-wing Israelis opposed to the hard-line security policies of the Begin Government have launched a series of protests designed to demonstrate internal opposition to the unresolved war in Lebanon and the continued expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The moves have coincided with a new Government-sponsored campaign - the most expensive of its kind ever organized - to persuade Israeli families to move to 4,000 new apartments and building plots which have recently become available in the West Bank.

Yesterday the organizers of the new group named "No to the Award" held a press conference to publicize the protest campaign in which hundreds of reserve soldiers and officers have already returned the official ribbons recently awarded by the Government to all those who took part in the war in Lebanon.

One of the campaigners, Sergeant Carlos Weiner, has been sentenced to six days in military prison as a punishment for his action and demoted in rank.

Members of the group, who claim that it is the first time in Israel's history that a campaign

ribbon has been presented while a war is still in progress have signed a petition which declares: "We went to this war by the order of the law, but not by the order of the heart."

Meanwhile, a separate group of some 30 members of the Peace Now movement have established a "protest settlement" near Nablus, the largest Palestinian town in the West Bank in an effort to counter the Government's plan to establish a new Jewish settlement there next week on the 35th anniversary of Israel's independence.

The new settlement is eventually intended to become the Jewish suburb of "Upper Nablus".

The protesters, who maintain that they will soon be joined by scores of other peace activists, have set up tents inside a compound surrounded by barbed wire. They have also taken a generator to the site to illuminate a large sign declaring: "No annexation."

In a third move, members of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel - and a number of Knesset deputies - have called on the film and theatre censorship board to revoke a decision banning an episode about the West Bank in a new Israeli film called "83". The board is now to review its decision.

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## Iranian oil well hit in Gulf naval battle

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iran and Iraq, locked in ground and air clashes since Sunday, have fought a naval battle in the Gulf, and Iran claims that one of its offshore-oil wells was hit by a missile.

Iraq said its navy sank two big Iranian naval vessels which approached its coast, but did not mention any attack on oil wells. But the Iranian news agency IRNA said the Iraqis used six gunboats and helicopters against the oil well.

Mr Hossein Mousavi, the Iranian Prime Minister, in an interview with Tehran radio, indirectly accused Iraq of trying to pollute the Gulf but said there was no new oil spill. News of the battle disrupted a crisis meeting in Kuwait of Gulf states ministers to discuss the huge oil slick affecting much of the Gulf.

## Cyclones leave trail of havoc

Calcutta (Reuters) - A four-minute cyclone killed at least 50 people and injured 1,500 when it ripped through a coastal district in West Bengal. More than 6,000 people were made homeless in 21 villages about 25 miles from here, destroying houses and uprooting power poles.

PAPEETE: The worst cyclone to hit Tahiti in modern times swept over the island, killing one person, injuring 26, and leaving more than 5,000 homeless, AP reports.

## Bomb attack in Philippines

Zamboanga City (AP & AFP) - Three bomb explosions in this city on Mindanao island in the Philippines killed a mayor's son and nephew and wounded 10 other people. The military said the attacks came a month after they had uncovered an alleged Muslim rebel plot to "create disturbances".

In Manila intelligence agents arrested Mr Antonio Maria Nieva, a prominent journalist and leader of a newspaper union.

## Atlantic defeat

Robin Knox-Johnston (above), who left New York 11 days ago in his catamaran *Sea Falcon*, has failed in an attempt to cross the Atlantic in record time. A force 2 wind robbed him of the chance to beat the present record of 9 days 10 hours 6 minutes, held by Marc Pajot of France.

Saudi injured

Athens (AP) - A parked car rigged with explosives blew up in an Athens suburb, injuring the First Secretary of the Saudi Arabian Embassy and his driver as their car passed by.

## Lippizaners die

Vienna (AP) - A herpes-induced epidemic equine rhino-pneumonia has killed three more of Austria's prized Lippizaner horses, bringing the death toll to 39.

## Singer banned

Harare (AP) - A Zimbabwe concert tour by Jimmy Cliff, the Jamaican reggae singer, has been cancelled after the Government said he would be banned because he had performed in South Africa in 1979.

## Fainting gunman

Swansea, Massachusetts (Reuters) - A bungling bank robber fainted when the woman cashier he held up at gunpoint said she had no money. He had also locked his getaway car with the keys inside.

## Correction

The 39-storey International Trade Centre in Dubai is about 500m high, not 150m as stated in Letter from Dubai on April 8.

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# Seeing how old some new cars are, it's not surprising dealers are practically giving them away.

The Audi 80 comes with a three-year anti-blister, anti-fade paintwork warranty and a six-year anti-rust warranty. At the time of going to press, that combination is unique.

The Audi 80 Turbo Diesel gives you the nearly 60mpg economy of a diesel engine combined with the nearly 100mph performance of a petrol engine.

The Audi 80 has 5 seat belts as standard; the Vauxhall Cavalier and Citroen CX leave something (not to say, someone) to chance.

The Audi 80 has self-stabilising steering to help you stop in a straight line after blowing a tyre; in a BL Ambassador, Ford Sierra, Vauxhall Cavalier or Alfa Giulietta you're still left wrestling with the steering wheel.

The Audi 80 is front wheel drive, unlike the Ford Sierra, BMW 3 Series and Alfa Giulietta, which all quaintly insist on pushing you around corners.

The Audi 80 GL has a unique stop/start system. While every other car in a traffic jam is wasting petrol idling, press a button and the 80 gets busy saving petrol by cutting the engine whenever you stop for more than 5 seconds.

The Audi 80 has electronic ignition to make sure it starts first time, every time. It's safe to say that the BL Ambassador and Alfa Giulietta are cars you could, on occasion, throttle.

The Audi 80 CD has a 5-cylinder engine giving it the performance of 6 cylinders and the economy of 4. Nothing else has (why not, you may ask).

The Audi 80 has an econometer and gear shift indicator to help you squeeze the last fraction of a mile out of every gallon; the Vauxhall Cavalier and Alfa Giulietta are extravagant by comparison.





## Lucky Luciano's partner among 11 murdered in Sicilian Mafia violence

From John Earle  
Rome

Eleven people have been murdered in Sicily in a flare-up of Mafia violence during the last 24 hours. Six were killed in two attacks in Palermo, four in Catania in the east, and one in Gela in the south. Rivalry between clans of the crime syndicates involved in the international drug racket were responsible, according to the police.

This latest wave of killings is the most violent since the assassination last September of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, a Carabinieri general sent to Sicily with a brief to stamp out the Mafia.

Among Tuesday's Palermo victims was "Nino the rich" Signor Antonio Sorci, aged 78, described as a lieutenant of the late Lucky Luciano, the underworld leader whom the authorities expelled to his native Italy after the last war.

Signor Sorci's 28-year-old son Cado, who died with him, had in his pocket an air ticket for a flight yesterday to New York. Both their names were on a list of 162 suspected drug traffickers drawn up by the police last summer.

Signor Sorci's car was ambushed in the centre of

### Etna rumbles on

Catania, Sicily (Reuter) - An eruption at Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, showed no sign yesterday of abating, more than two weeks after it began.

A luxury cablecar, a ski lift, mountain cabins for summer tourists, roads, woods and electricity pylons have been damaged or destroyed, but no densely populated areas are threatened.

Signor Carmelo Staziale, a volcanologist at Catania University, said there were three distinct lava flows down the south, south-east and south-west faces of the volcano.

Palermo on Tuesday night. His son was gunned down from a passing car.

The Sorci family was stated by police to be linked with a gang which had operated an underground narcotics refinery, discovered last year when more than 100lb of morphine and heroin were seized.

Signor Sorci was a contractor who built a villa in Palermo where two years ago police broke up a meeting of gangland leaders.

Not far away three members of the Romagnolo family were

shot dead and four were injured as they stood outside their shop selling shoes and leather goods. The main target appears to have been Signor Giuseppe Romagnolo, aged 40, who was released from Palermo prison last month. He was killed.

The only victim not suspected of Mafia connections was Signor Carmelo Basile, aged 43, a security guard, who was shot dead as he entered his home near Catania.

The other dead man of some importance was Signor Giuseppe Misuraca, aged 70, shot dead yesterday in a Palermo street by two men on a motor cycle. He was described as an elderly Mafia boss who had several times been sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

In a separate incident, nine people were arrested yesterday for fraud in connexion with the expenditure of regional government funds in public works in Palermo, and the public prosecutor announced that charges were being laid against a further 26.

Among those arrested was Signor Ludovico Martellucci, aged 59, a builder and brother of the Christian Democrat Mayor, Signor Nello Martellucci, who recently announced he was resigning.



## West German census postponed

Jubilant lawyers and plaintiffs celebrating their victory yesterday after the West German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe ruled that a census planned for April 27 should be postponed.

The court granted an injunction to two Hamburg lawyers and a law student, pending investigation of the legality of the first census since 1970, Reuter reports.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said that the ruling meant no new census could be taken for at least a year.

The lawyers, backed by trade unionists, the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) and hundreds of anti-census groups argued that the census would violate constitutional rights to privacy.

The president of the court said the injunction, valid for three months, did not pre-empt a final decision on whether the census would be banned or authorized in a modified form.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, SPD parliamentary leader, welcomed the injunction, and the Green party

described it as an endorsement of public resistance to the project.

Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, Interior Minister, who inherited responsibility for the census when he took office in October, denied any suggestion that the ruling reflected criticism of his administration. A spokesman for the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) said that the previous SPD Government did not take proper care in preparing the census. He said the need for a national survey was beyond dispute.

## Solidarity 'arranged' escape of shot man

From Roger Boyes  
Warsaw

Nine Solidarity activists on trial at the Warsaw Military Court were responsible for smuggling a wounded unionist out of hospital, evading militia guards in the corridor, according to the Army newspaper *Zolnierz Wolnost*.

The activists, who belonged to an underground group known as the Interfactory Workers' Solidarity Committee (MRKS), have been on trial for almost a fortnight accused of inciting strikes and street demonstrations in Warsaw, publishing illegal publications designed to disturb public order, and "resorting to terror against their political opponents".

But according to the Army newspaper, the group which had underground links with 63 factories, was instrumental in making Warsaw one of the most active underground centres in Poland. Two hundred people had been investigated in connexion with the group and 21 arrested, though so far only nine are facing trial.

Mr Jan Naromniak, an active member of the KOR dissident group, was stopped last summer by a police patrol. When he tried to escape he was shot in the leg and taken to hospital under heavy guard. There the MRKS group contrived Mr Naromniak's escape from the operating theatre where the guards were forbidden to enter.

According to unofficial sources at the time, he was put into a laundry bag and escaped down a rubbish chute.

Meanwhile, the military prosecutor of the Wroclaw garrison has published a report which declared that an inquiry has exonerated the police in shooting incidents in the copper town of Lubin last August during which two people died. A third subsequently died of his wounds.

"When the increasingly impatient demonstrators became still more aggressive, the order-keeping forces used fire arms, shooting blanks as a warning", the report said.

Several policemen were then encircled and "under circumstances of direct threat to life and health" they used live ammunition, shooting above the heads of the crowd. The bullets ricocheted, mortally wounding two demonstrators.

Apart from the third who subsequently died, "four other people were wounded by rifle shots and several others were injured by pellets and tear gas grenades".

## Pondering the message of urban decay

By Tony Samstag

The great cities of the world are dying, most students of the subject agree, but there is room for discussion as to whether that moribund urban condition signals an opportunity for renaissance or truly the beginning of the end.

Today, accordingly, member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development meet in Paris for two days' consideration of *Inter alia*, programmes for rehabilitating the inner city, cost-efficiency in public services, enterprise zones and tax concessions.

It is, says the OECD, the first time that those particular ministers with urban portfolios have met at international level, reflecting the "growing recognition that cities have a key role to play in achieving sustainable economic development".

Leaving aside the more parochial political obsessions of the member nations, which will dictate, for example, that Lord Bellwin, Minister for Local Government and Environment Services in the Department of

the Environment, proselytizes on behalf of the Government's keenness to forge a partnership between private and public sectors in the service of urban reclamation on the cheap, the symposium will have some horrifying statistics to ponder.

Montreal, Paris, Frankfurt, Osaka and Stockholm lost at least 15 per cent of their inner city residents during the seventies. During the same period

## Lagos world's most expensive city

Geneva (AP) - The rise of the dollar has shifted rankings among the world's most expensive cities but the Nigerian capital of Lagos remains the unchallenged leader in 1983, according to a survey compiled by Business International, an independent research company.

For the second year Lagos topped a list of 86 cities throughout the world, followed by Tokyo and Cairo. Mexico City was at the bottom end, with an index of 41 against

Greater London lost a quarter of a million in population.

Cities as diverse as Detroit and Lyons, crippled respectively by declining car and textile manufacturing, shrank by more than a fifth. Liverpool and Birmingham, of course, have declined, but Amsterdam, The Hague, Duisburg and even Basle are rapidly becoming shadows of their former selves.

Where populations are grow-

ing, as in many of the big Mediterranean cities such as Barcelona, Milan, Athens, and Ankara, "there, as in the cities of north-west Europe in an earlier period, pell-mell population increase and immigration are both fuelling economic growth and overwhelming the capacity of the authorities to prepare relevant development plans and finance services such as sewers, water supplies".

companies determine the cost of living differentials paid to expatriate executives.

The weighted index is based on a food "basket", household supplies, recreation, transport and selected other items.

Oslo, which ranked number three worldwide with an index figure of 125, remained Europe's most expensive city.

A 12 city "guide on travel costs", also released by Business International, showed London as the most expensive place for visiting executives.

## Dead heat in Greenland poll

From Christopher Follett  
Copenhagen

The ruling moderate left-wing anti-EEC Summit Party of Mr Jonathan Motzfeldt, chairman of the Landsting, Greenland's Parliament in Godthaab, seems set to continue in power as a minority administration despite a setback at Tuesday's elections.

With its share of the vote dropping to 42 per cent Summit lost its absolute majority in the Landsting in a dead heat with the main opposition party, the right-wing pro-EEC Atassut, which saw its electoral support increase to 46 per cent. Both parties now holding 12 seats in the 26-seat Landsting.

At the first poll in Greenland, which achieved home rule under the Danish crown in 1979, the island's two main parties' share of the vote was the reverse.

As expected, the small left-wing Inuit Eskimo nationalist party took advantage of this week's polarised vote to gain entrance to the Landsting for the first time with around 10 per cent of the vote. They have two seats and the prospect of



Mr Motzfeldt: Still in command

influencing developments in the country.

Inuit has demanded more rapid "Greenlandisation", including complete local control of the vast icebound territory's rich mineral resources such as lead, zinc, cryolite and uranium at present shared with Denmark.

It also wants a strengthening of ties with the neighbouring Eskimos of North America, as well as a total breach with the EEC, which Greenlanders nar-

rowly voted to leave in a referendum last year.

According to Ritzan, the Danish national news agency, Mr Motzfeldt, acknowledging his party's losses, said he would continue relying on shifting parliamentary alliances to rule the territory but offered to cooperate with the Inuit party. He is sure of the support of Atassut for his attempts to secure an associate trade agreement with the EEC, such as is enjoyed at present by the British Falkland Islands, the Dutch Antilles and French Polynesia, in the current delicate negotiations with Brussels on withdrawal from the Community by January 1, 1984.

Greenland, whose status within Denmark is similar to that of the Isle of Man in the United Kingdom, joined the EEC reluctantly along with Denmark in 1973.

The island's decision to opt out of the EEC will lose it an estimated 200 kroner (15.4m) annually in aid from Brussels, making the economy one of Mr Motzfeldt's new government's main preoccupations.

# British Aerospace and Airbus - on the wings of success



British Aerospace and Airbus are the world's leading aircraft manufacturers. The Airbus A300-600 is the world's most successful twin-engine wide-body aircraft. It has over 1,000 in service with airlines in 30 countries. The A300-600 is a true world traveller, capable of flying long-haul routes with a payload of 180 passengers. It is also a true multi-mission aircraft, capable of flying short-haul routes with a payload of 100 passengers. The A300-600 is a true world traveller, capable of flying long-haul routes with a payload of 180 passengers. It is also a true multi-mission aircraft, capable of flying short-haul routes with a payload of 100 passengers.





## The Russians in the Far East

## Defector names Japanese 'spies'

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Mr Stanislav Levchenko, the Soviet spy who defected to the United States in 1979, has stirred up a political hornet's nest in Japan by naming several prominent Japanese whom, he said, he had himself recruited as agents for the KGB. They included a former Cabinet minister.

The names are included in a condensed version of a book appearing in *Reader's Digest*, based on Mr Levchenko's experience in Tokyo, and in an interview accompanying the article.

According to *Reader's Digest*, 26 people are mentioned in the book, either by code names or real ones. A former Labour Minister code-named "Hoover", a member of the ruling

Liberal Democratic Party code-named "Grace", a member of Parliament and an influential member of the Japan Socialist Party, as well as several other politicians, journalists and businessmen, are included.

The book claims that a Foreign Ministry code clerk passed messages to the KGB. The Foreign Ministry is investigating the matter, as are the police. Those available for comment have denied the allegations vigorously.

In an interview with the Japanese version of *Reader's Digest* Levchenko claims to have handled 10 agents in Japan and dealt with many more. While he was in Japan during the mid-1970s, he says, there were at least 200 people

there who worked as KGB agents.

Mr Levchenko plans to write his own account of his life as a spy sometime this year. His story so far has been told in the *Reader's Digest* book, *KGB Today: The Hidden Hand*.

In the interview, Mr Levchenko says that Japan's perceptions on the KGB were "naïve". "They (the Japanese) do not know that the KGB is actually a real thing which operates across Japan. The KGB is taking full advantage of the innocence of the Japanese people, and recruiting Japanese agents before they realize what is happening."

Japan, which does not have an anti-spy law, is "definitely too lenient to foreign

intelligence operations, I really think Japan is a paradise for spies," he says.

Mr Levchenko says that the definition of a KGB agent is broad, and that whether someone is one wittingly or unwittingly does not matter, some of those named in the book denied ever having met Levchenko.

Asked how the KGB recruits agents in Japan, he says: "The Japanese people generally are fascinated by *gaijin* (foreigners) especially whites". In some cases, money is involved.

He does not cite more names partly because "some Japanese have committed suicide in cases like these. But conceivably, circumstances might force me to name more names in the future."

## Moscow wants Asian security talks

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Soviet officials said yesterday that Moscow was actively seeking an Asian security conference, which would take into account the fears raised in China and Japan by the stationing of medium range missiles in Soviet Asia.

Officials said the proposal for a regional security conference with Soviet participation had been discussed during a recent visit to Moscow by a large Japanese political and trade delegation.

Sources said the Japanese response had been sceptical. Japan and other Asian powers have in the past been suspicious

of repeated Soviet proposals for an Asian "collective security pact".

Moscow has said that it will do more than dust off long standing proposals, however, and has offered to discuss the changed circumstances of Soviet-Asian relations, including the anxieties aroused by the deployment of SS20s in the Soviet Far East.

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said at a press conference two weeks ago that the Soviet Union was "encircled" by American military bases, and that Japan and

surrounding waters were "bristling with nuclear weapons".

Tokyo has denied this, and rejects Mr Gromyko's charge that the island of Okinawa is "a huge nuclear weapons base". He also claimed that South Korea and the Indian Ocean base of Diego Garcia were sites for American missiles aimed at Russia.

To the alarm of Asian powers, the Russians have said they need to station medium range rockets in the Far East to counter this "threat to Soviet security". Moscow has also proposed moving some of its SS20s beyond the Urals as part

of an agreement on European medium range missile reductions at Geneva.

Diplomatic sources said they doubted whether Japan and China would agree to a regional security conference. Peking is already engaged in bilateral "consultations" with Moscow on a range of issues, and the Japanese would prefer to see the problem of missiles in Asia included in a broadened version of the present Geneva talks.

Soviet officials said they would none the less approach other Asian countries, including India, Pakistan and Vietnam.

## China finds its army too far to the left

From David Bonavia, Peking

One of China's key military commanders has urged the armed forces to work harder to eliminate "leftist" attitudes which, he says, are harmful to the fighting spirit of the troops and the prestige of the Chinese Army.

General Li Desheng, commander of the important North-Eastern Military Region bordering on the Soviet Union, was quoted in the *People's Daily* yesterday as indicating that military opposition to political discussion and important of Western cultural influence was too severe.

The region's command centre, the city of Shenyang, was seen as a hotbed of leftism in the last years of Mao Tse-tung.

The article, reprinted from a political journal in Liaoning province, said good progress had been made in rooting out leftism in the Army, especially since the appointment of Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman, to head the Central Military Commission in 1981.

However, it added that "some comrades" had shown leftist influence in their criticism of such phenomena as the "Democracy Wall" outburst of political wall posters in 1979, and of the craze for bell-bottom trousers and modern dancing in 1980, in attacks on liberal literary trends, and in blaming economic crime on relaxation of party policies in 1982.



Floral tribute: Mr Zhao Ziyang, China's Prime Minister, being presented with a bunch of flowers at Christchurch airport yesterday at the start of his official visit to New Zealand.

## Hanoi to cut troops in Cambodia

Bangkok (Reuters) - Vietnam and its two neighbouring allies, Laos and Cambodia, announced yesterday that a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia would take place next month, Hanoi radio reported.

The announcement came after an unexpected meeting of foreign ministers from the three countries on Tuesday, in Phnom Penh.

Thai military officials in Bangkok say that a large Vietnamese force is poised for a final dry-season attack on Cambodian guerrillas on the Thai border before Hanoi loses its military advantage with the onset of monsoon rains expected late this month or in early May.

A communiqué, quoted by Hanoi radio and monitored in Bangkok, said that the troops would be withdrawn because of the stable situation in Cambodia.

Vietnam pledged in February that, depending on the security situation, it would make regular annual withdrawals from Cambodia beginning this year. It first announced last July that it was withdrawing some of its estimated 180,000 troops there.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean),

said that Vietnam merely rotated elements of its garrison in Cambodia. Western diplomats in Hanoi said that between 10,000 and 12,000 Vietnamese troops had left Cambodia and had been replaced by an unknown number of fresh soldiers.

● **PEKING:** China accused Vietnam of committing three new armed provocations along their common border in the past few days, AFP reports. The New China news agency said that the incidents had "seriously endangered the lives and possessions of the Chinese border people" but did not say whether there were any victims.

● **ARANYAPRATHET:** Vietnamese troops ambushed a Thai patrol near the Gulf of Siam while Khmer Rouge guerrillas battled with the Vietnamese yesterday along the Thai-Cambodian border, Thai military sources said here, AP reports.

Sporadic fighting was reported inside Cambodia south of Aranyaprathet. Most Western and Thai military analysts, however, predict that the Vietnamese' most likely targets will be north of Aranyaprathet where two large camps of the opposition Khmer People's National Liberation Front are located.

## Universities protest at race quotas

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

The vice-chancellors of South Africa's four main English-speaking universities have issued a strong joint protest against legislation going through Parliament which would force them to observe racially based quotas for the admission of black students.

The protest was agreed at a meeting earlier this week called after the first reading by Parliament of the legislation. It was attended by the vice-chancellors of the universities of Cape Town, Natal (Durban and Pietermaritzburg), Rhodes (Grahamstown) and the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg).

Professor D. J. Du Plessis, the vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, told *The Times* yesterday that the new legislation, if implemented, would be even more objectionable than the existing unacceptable interference with universities' rights.

"The new system would require us to refuse someone entry on the basis of colour once the quota has been exhausted. Even if the quotas were reasonably generous - and we do not have the faintest idea what size they would be - we would find the principle on which they are based totally repugnant."

## Diary of a would-be assassin

From Christopher Thomas, New York

A grisly diary of death of the man who shot Governor George Wallace of Alabama and plotted to kill President Richard Nixon is up for sale.

Arthur Bremer will spend most of his life in prison for the shooting in a shopping precinct in Maryland in May, 1972. Governor Wallace, who has been undergoing treatment lately for bouts of depression, will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

The diary chronicles Bremer's plans to assassinate the Governor: "Great idea - get a 3 x 5 confederate flag, drape it over my shoulder to conceal the gun in my hand. An easy way to approach the great Governor, to shake his humble hand. And shake his heart, lungs, and maybe a head shot or two..."

He adds: "Life outside ain't too hot. I want to do something cold and dramatic, forceful and dynamic."

The diary also describes his plans to stalk Mr Nixon's daughter, Julie, and her husband Mr David Eisenhower. The opening entry states: "Now I start my diary of my personal plot to kill by pistol either Richard Nixon or George Wallace. I intend to shoot one or the other."

## Railway apartheid stays

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

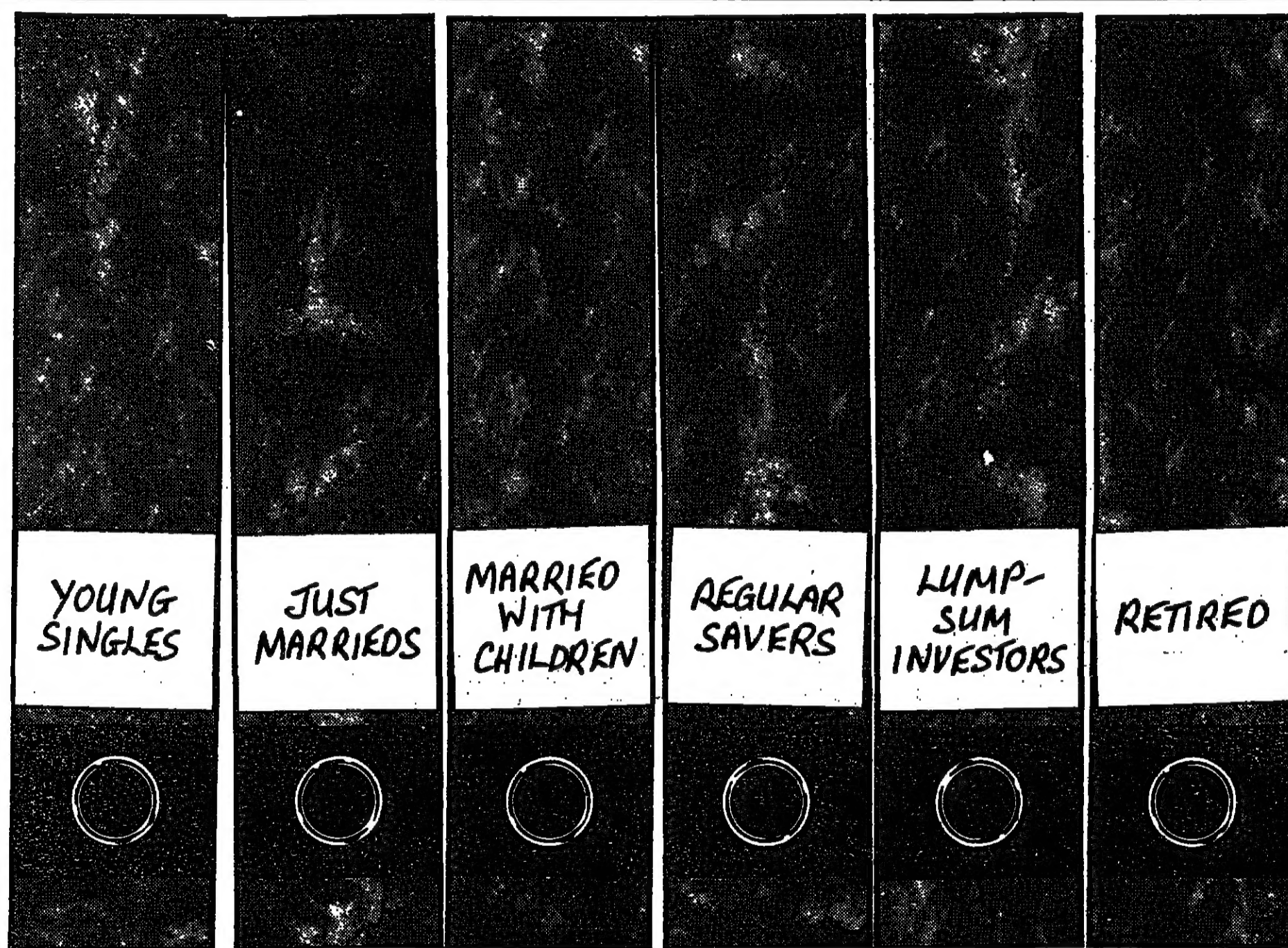
Strict apartheid will continue to be enforced on trains and in railway stations in South Africa, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, the Transport Minister, has told Parliament.

His statement conflicts with stated government policy to scrap what it terms "harmful" discriminatory measures.

Mr Schoeman is considered to be one of the most *verligte* (liberal) members of the Government and a bitter opponent of extreme right-wing Nationalist MPs who, under the leadership of Dr Andries Treurnicht, broke away and formed the Conservative Party.

Mr Schoeman's statement on railway apartheid is being viewed as a gesture to try to appease disaffected Nationalists in by-elections in May in which Dr Treurnicht's Conservatives are attempting to unseat government members, particularly Mr Fanie Botha.

Despite Mr Schoeman's statement, railway apartheid is likely to be gradually eliminated. He told the opposition Progressive Federal Party, was that separate but equal facilities were needed on trains and at railway stations to prevent minorities from "being crowded out and trampled underfoot".



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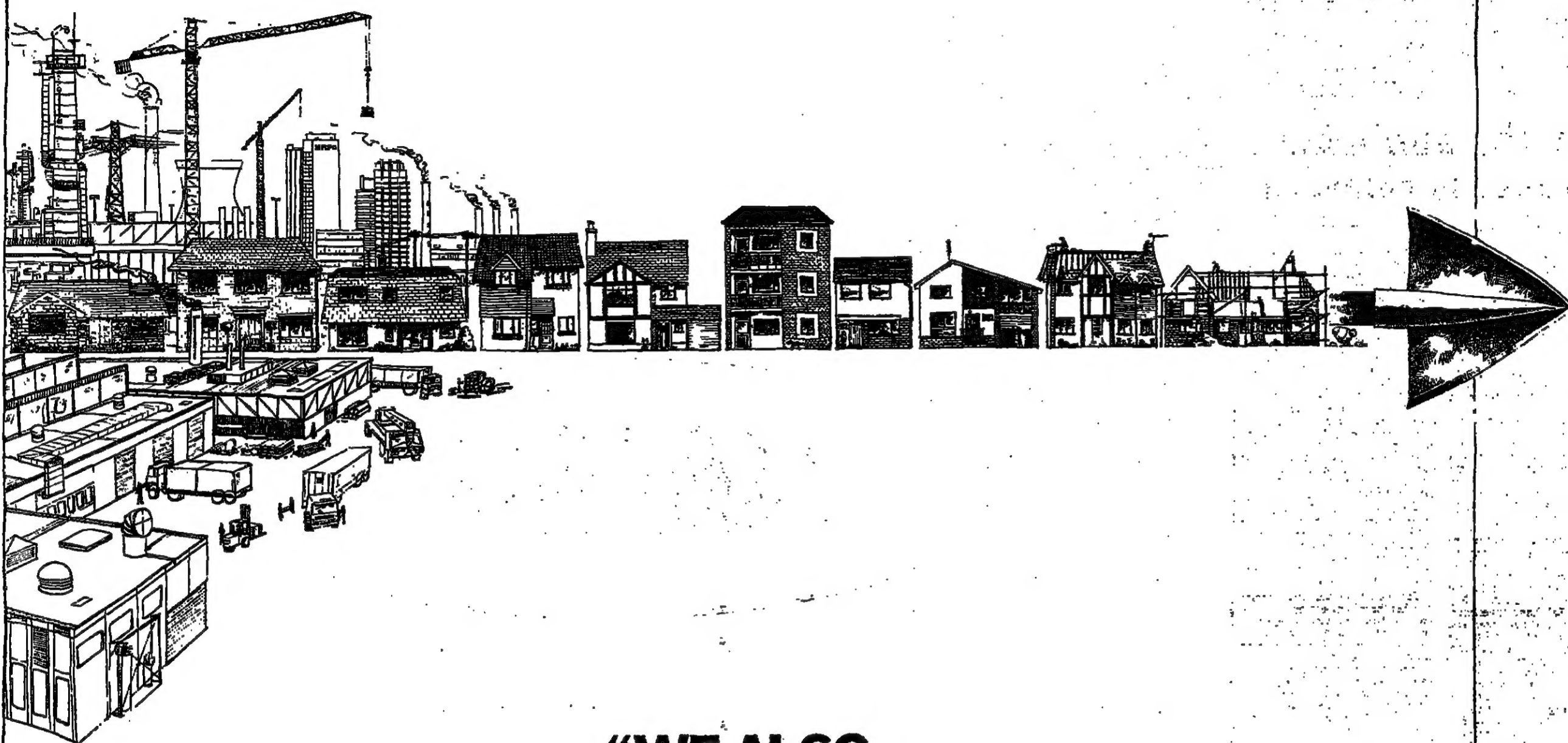
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# ABBEY NATIONAL 1982

**"WE'RE NOT JUST  
IN THE BUSINESS OF  
CREATING HOMES?"**



**"WE ALSO  
CREATE JOBS?"**

## **NEW BUILDING COULD SPEARHEAD ECONOMIC REGENERATION.** Sir Campbell Adamson, Chairman of Abbey National speaking at the Annual General Meeting on 13 April 1983 said:-

... at a time when unemployment is affecting an alarmingly high proportion of the country's workforce - including Abbey National membership - I should like to reflect on how our activities affect employment prospects. It has been argued that in the 1930's a great upsurge in house construction financed by building society money helped considerably to pull the country out of the slump. The forecast rate of starts this year may not represent a boom of those proportions but is an indication that the confidence needed to get the economy off the ground may be returning. It is hoped that our allocation of £750m for new house building will be an added incentive for companies, large and small, to expand their labour force. New and growing communities also bring new opportunities for local tradesmen and commercial enterprises, giving a welcome boost to mature businesses.

In inner city areas, I am not yet convinced that the full implications of Abbey National involvement in improving housing conditions has been grasped by the business world. These areas represent a large market where finance is now, perhaps for the first time, readily available. The success of our showhouse programme will be measured in terms of the impetus given to householders to improve their homes. This in turn will bring an expansion of employment opportunity and have a beneficial 'knock on' effect for the economy of the areas as a whole. Similarly, the role of Abbey Housing Association is important in providing new housing.

I think we can rightly say that we are not just in the business of creating homes. We also create jobs.

### *Among the other points made by the Chairman:*

#### **HOME SERVICE**

Given that the building society industry can attract sufficient receipts, private housing starts this year could exceed 160,000. We have set ourselves an overall £3 BN lending target for 1983,

of this £750m will be set aside to finance new house building - the largest sum ever allocated by a building society for the housing industry. Of this £750m, £100m has been earmarked for inner city building projects.

Over 25% of our lending last year went into pre-1919 housing.

We have established a programme to buy run down properties in urban areas

to refurbish as showhouses. Our intention is to show local people what can be done with mortgage and improvement grant aid. We are currently involved in discussions in Liverpool to rehabilitate a large post war housing development.

Abbey Housing Association is continuing its activities on sites involving houses, flats and maisonettes, the

programme is approaching 1000 units completed or under construction. The 104 units planned at Tower Hamlets are now complete and the largest undertaking so far is in Bermondsey where 160 units are under way with 20% earmarked for assured tenancies. The Association has moved into refurbishing property involving flat conversions for sale in Reading. In general, the major obstacle to making more rapid progress is the acquisition of land in reasonable locations and on reasonable terms from local authorities.

Much has been said about the advent of Mortgage Interest Relief at Source - MIRAS. 100,000 people have asked for details on how a change to endowment would benefit them. The final decision rests entirely with the borrower. Our role is, as always, to offer advice and to ensure that the decision is made against the full range of relevant information.

#### **MONEY SERVICE**

Major reorganisation of the Society's computer technology is well under way to provide counter top terminals and automatic passbook updating, designed to speed up our payment and withdrawal facilities.

The most popular schemes proved to be the Seven Day Account and High Option Bonds. Well over £1 BN was invested in each during the year with the Seven Day Account, which was a prime factor in our excellent market performance, now totalling more than £1.5 BN.

To these and other well known products in our range, we have added the Cheque-Save Account.

This does not mean the Society is

moving into the banking business and we are not interested in trying to capture any of the high volume cheque market.

Membership of the Junior Savers Club now tops 600,000 - 200,000 joined in 1982 alone. The Club is in many ways the first step on the home ownership ladder. In addition to providing newsletters and competitions, we are actually open in out-of-school hours unlike some competing institutions.

The Home Income Plan to provide elderly home owners with a fixed guaranteed income for life, aroused tremendous interest. So far business amounting to £8.4m has been completed.

#### **1982 RESULTS**

Total assets now exceed £12 BN - an addition of £2 BN during the year - representing a growth rate of 20.5%.

Our operations generated a surplus of £59 m although the Reserve Ratio dipped marginally to 3.6% through controlled use in a highly competitive environment.

Liquidity Ratio at 20.7% stood at slightly above the end 1981 figure.

A remarkable 1.8 million new investment accounts were opened, bringing the total number of membership accounts to 8½ million.

The Society lent more money on house purchase and improvement and to more people than at any other time in its history. Lending at £2.6 BN was an increase for the second year running of 28% over the previous year. Of the 150,000 purchasers assisted, 85,000 were first time buyers and over 16,000 were existing council tenants who purchased their house

outright. A measure of our continuing commitment to housing improvement is that we made £212m available to more than 78,000 borrowers - 50% more than 1981's record figure.

The opening of 29 branches brought the total number to 664, by far the largest network of any Society.

We now have 2,463 agencies, the most active and successful of these take on many of the functions of a branch. The direct sales force has been expanded to 160 people making a growing contribution to the Society's operations.

On each working day, in 1982:

1. A new investment account was opened every 4 seconds.
2. A new mortgage loan was provided every minute.
3. The Society helped to provide a loan to a first time buyer every 1½ minutes.

For the year as a whole, this means an average of 20 mortgages and 243 investment accounts for each of the Society's 7409 full time staff.

**ABBEY  
NATIONAL  
BUILDING SOCIETY**

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THE ACCOUNTS AND DETAILS OF  
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LONDON W1M 2AA.



Privy Council

# Commissioners' opinion upheld ILEA is part of GLC Pensions fall within exclusion

**Hargreaves and Others v The Church Commissioners**  
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Scarman and Lord Brightman  
[Judgment delivered April 12]

Where a pastoral scheme was made for the union of two Church of England benefices, the right to appeal against the scheme under section 8(2) of the Pastoral Measure 1968 was a genuine right of appeal on the merits and a change of circumstances or the emergence of fresh evidence might in an appropriate case constitute grounds for allowing an appeal and directing the Church Commissioners to reconsider the scheme, but where there was room for two reasonable opinions as to a particular course of action, the Church Commissioners' decision was not to be disturbed. The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the Church Commissioners against a decision of the Pastoral Measure Tribunal that the pastoral scheme made by the Church Commissioners on June 2, 1981 uniting the parishes of Copthorne and Minstead in the Diocese of Winchester was valid. The Tribunal had found that the pastoral scheme was valid and that the parishes should be united. The Church Commissioners had appealed against the Tribunal's decision. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

The exercise of the right of appeal given by section 8(2) of the Pastoral Measure 1968 was a genuine right of appeal on the merits and a change of circumstances or the emergence of fresh evidence might in an appropriate case constitute grounds for allowing an appeal and directing the Church Commissioners to reconsider the scheme, but where there was room for two reasonable opinions as to a particular course of action, the Church Commissioners' decision was not to be disturbed. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

In the present case, if the appellants were right, it was an essential part of their case that the scheme was not to be disturbed. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

**Inner London Education Authority v Department of the Environment**  
Before Mr Justice Woolf  
[Judgment delivered March 30]  
The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) which, by virtue of section 30 of the London Government Act 1963, was the Greater London Council acting by means of a special committee in pursuance of its education functions (the council), but differently constituted from the Greater London Council, was the local education authority for the purposes of Part III of the 1980 Act. The ILEA was not a local authority for the purposes of Part III of the 1980 Act. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

section 9 laid down what was to be contained in the accounts. The ILEA contended that the accounts in respect of its DLO pursuant to the provisions of the 1980 Act should be separate and apart from the accounts in respect of other DLOs which were engaged in activities on behalf of the GLC. The Department of the Environment, however, was convinced that the ILEA could not run a DLO without involving the GLC because it enjoyed no separate legal personality apart from the GLC. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

**Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group**  
Before Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson, Miss J. Collyer and Mr R. Thomas  
[Judgment delivered March 30]  
Section 6(4) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, which excluded provisions relating to death or retirement from the Act, was applied to the case of a woman who had been dismissed from her employment on the grounds of redundancy. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

Section 5(3) of the Act provided that a comparison of cases of different sex under section 1(1) must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same or not materially different in the other. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

1975 Act was seeking to eliminate all discrimination between men and women. But it was faced with a widespread and inherently discriminatory practice deeply embedded in the social organization of the country, namely the differential in retirement ages between men and women. Section 6(4) was drafted to exclude claims arising out of the different retirement ages. Any complaint based on the existence of contractual terms dealing with retirement had to be excluded since such terms would necessarily be linked to the differential in the retirement ages. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

## Only the applicant's conduct is relevant

**Sang Lee Investment Co Ltd v Wing Lok Investment Co Ltd and Another**  
Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Scarman, Lord Brightman and Lord Templeman  
[Judgment delivered April 12]  
Where both parties had been deficient in good faith in connection with the formation of a contract between them, a court in deciding whether or not to grant specific performance of the contract had to consider whether there had been any relevant want of good faith, honesty or righteousness on the part of the party seeking specific performance and was not required to balance the misconduct of one party against the misconduct of the other. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

The original vendor had argued that specific performance being an equitable remedy was only available to one who came with clean hands and that since the sub-purchaser's hands were not clean, or, on a true view of the facts, less clean than those of the original vendor, the court should refuse to grant specific performance of the contract of sale. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

The helpful United States authority *Whegan v Killefer* (1914) 215 F 168 emphasized that, where a party resists a grant of specific performance on the ground of misconduct by the party seeking it, it had to show that the conduct itself was wanting in good faith and was "in the transaction" which was the basis of the suit. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

In a case where there were alleged improprieties on both sides it was not a proper approach for the court exercising its discretion to grant specific performance to compare the misconduct on one side with the misconduct on the other. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

The court should first decide whether there had been any relevant want of faith, honesty or righteousness on the part of the person seeking relief and should then decide whether as a matter of discretion and in all the circumstances, which might include any relevant misconduct on the part of the person resisting equitable relief, it was right to refuse to grant it. No balancing exercise fell to be performed. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

On the facts, the claim by the original purchaser and the sub-purchaser for a decree of specific performance was unanswerable. The appeal should be dismissed. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

**Landlord wrong to assert lien over goods**  
Before Mr Justice Croom-Johnson  
[Judgment delivered March 30]  
Where a landlord, who was a bailee of goods for his licensee, denied him access to the licensed premises where the goods were stored, and wrongfully and without justification asserted a lien over the goods in respect of arrears of rent, his detention of the goods became adverse to the licensee and he was liable in detinue for that detention. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

Mr Justice Croom-Johnson so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division in giving judgment for the plaintiff in his claim for damages for detinue and conversion of goods. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

## Landlord wrong to assert lien over goods

**Finlayson v Taylor**  
Before Mr Justice Croom-Johnson  
[Judgment delivered March 30]  
Where a landlord, who was a bailee of goods for his licensee, denied him access to the licensed premises where the goods were stored, and wrongfully and without justification asserted a lien over the goods in respect of arrears of rent, his detention of the goods became adverse to the licensee and he was liable in detinue for that detention. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

Mr Justice Croom-Johnson so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division in giving judgment for the plaintiff in his claim for damages for detinue and conversion of goods. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

Mr Ivan Krollick for the plaintiff, Mr Peter Brunner for the defendant. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

By padlocking the door and thereby excluding the plaintiff from the premises, and by wrongfully asserting a lien over the goods, the defendant's detention of the goods became adverse to the plaintiff and therefore constituted an unlawful detinue. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

The plaintiff was entitled to damages for detinue and conversion. Solicitors: R. Nichols Marry, Walton-on-Thames; T. Richards & Co. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

**Prisoner made homeless by wife's conduct**  
Regina v Swansea City Council, Ex parte Thomas  
A man who normally lived in a family unit with a woman and their two children could become intentionally homeless where that accommodation had been lost as a result of the woman's conduct while the man was in prison if there was evidence reasonably to suggest that he had acquiesced in the conduct complained of. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

Accordingly, a housing authority might reasonably refuse that man's application under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, refusing an application for judicial review of the authority's decision. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that Parliament could not have intended that an authority should be required to rehouse a family unit against whom they had previously obtained an order for possession on the ground of nuisance committed by one member of that family unit. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

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**Test certificate required for carrying scrap**  
Gibson v Nutter  
A goods vehicle which carried cars to be sold as scrap was not a recovery vehicle and was therefore required to have a goods vehicle test certificate under the Goods Vehicles (Plating and Testing) Regulations (SI 1971 No 352). The Divisional Court (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McNair) said on March 30 when allowing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated. The defendant's vehicle was loaded with seven abandoned vehicles which were to be sold as scrap. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

On the proper construction of the regulations, the exemption granted by Schedule 2 applied to a breakdown vehicle which was used for the conveyance of one disabled vehicle only. A disabled vehicle was one which had broken down and a scrap vehicle was not a disabled vehicle. Accordingly, a goods vehicle used to transport a scrap vehicle or a number of scrap or disabled vehicles required a certificate. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

**Only the applicant's conduct is relevant**  
Sang Lee Investment Co Ltd v Wing Lok Investment Co Ltd and Another  
Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Scarman, Lord Brightman and Lord Templeman  
[Judgment delivered April 12]  
Where both parties had been deficient in good faith in connection with the formation of a contract between them, a court in deciding whether or not to grant specific performance of the contract had to consider whether there had been any relevant want of good faith, honesty or righteousness on the part of the party seeking specific performance and was not required to balance the misconduct of one party against the misconduct of the other. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

The original vendor had argued that specific performance being an equitable remedy was only available to one who came with clean hands and that since the sub-purchaser's hands were not clean, or, on a true view of the facts, less clean than those of the original vendor, the court should refuse to grant specific performance of the contract of sale. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

The helpful United States authority *Whegan v Killefer* (1914) 215 F 168 emphasized that, where a party resists a grant of specific performance on the ground of misconduct by the party seeking it, it had to show that the conduct itself was wanting in good faith and was "in the transaction" which was the basis of the suit. The House of Lords, in a 3-2 majority, dismissed the appeal. Lord Scarman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Keith of Kinkaid and Lord Brightman dissented. Lord Keith said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed. Lord Brightman said that the Tribunal's decision was not to be disturbed.

**HA! HA!**

Thursdays at 8.00, *The Optimist*.  
Silent funnies about sporting Nigel. He'll try anything once, including former Miss UK, Dinah May.

**HA! HA!**

Thursdays at 9.00, *Soap*.  
If you don't find schizophrenia, homosexuality or the nuclear threat at all amusing, Soap could change your mind.

**HA! HA! BONK!**

Fridays at 9.30, *Capstick Capers*. At 10.00, *Cheers*.  
First, the stand-up comic Yorkshiremen consider a genius. Then Cheers, the American bar-room comedy hit.

**You'll laugh your head off on Channel Four.**

See for yourself on Channel Four.



## SPECTRUM

## Tender is the night

## MODERN TIMES

## A sideways look at the British way of life

Do you remember when city streets were rich in night-time braziers? Every hole in the road had its attendant and his coke blaze glowing through the perforations of a punched-through oil drum. The guard with a string round his overcoat lived in a hut and drank tea from a billy-can and seemed to be half way between a tramp and a policeman, custodian of a few tools and an inky-black gap in the pavement.

The world is now too expensive a place to allow such after-hours luxuries and such unlikely respectabilities: an old boy of that sort would now be snug in his old people's home, or sleeping rough and discarded under a railway arch. Those were still, just, the days when policemen called you sir whatever you looked like.

I have often enough been a night-tourist, and learned to appreciate the peculiar glamour of being out of kilter with the world, and having it to oneself. Bouncing home across London on the oldest bike in the world after rock 'n' roll in Hammersmith (woefully drunk and wobbly) at two in the morning, for instance.

But the nights are best when you've something to do. Best of all - most powerfully romantic - is to be at sea. One harbourmaster-cum-pilot once let me stay up with him while he buffeted towards an unlit rendezvous with a Polish freighter off the North-east coast. Suddenly a wave took us high and close against the great wall of its side, and we looked through a porthole into a little yellow-warm pool of tussled bunks and open magazines, and then plunged back down into the gloom and spray. The ladder was out on the wrong side, but my man took his salty, balletic leap and was crawling up the great steady ship as we rocketed off to lead the hurrying way.

As a chauffeur I used to drive a distinguished man through the night: London to Yorkshire or Cornwall, or Heathrow to Suffolk, slipping down long strips of roads, counting the miles in tens and twenties with a pop station burbling inconsequentialities at just the volume to let the great man sleep his sleep. He might be important, but I was conscious: a bleary-eyed squire to his knight. They were nights spent battling against sleep; often it won for a second or two, a worrying business at 70 or 80mph.

Before that, security cars. One chilly night in 1966 my Alsatian dog and I guarded the drinks cabinet at Wembley, the night before England did something to Germany in football. Throughout, my borrowed dog feigned sleep on the back seat.

It was a marvellous job. There was a crazed night manager, with a house in Fenge, or perhaps it was Croydon: we would meet for breakfast, all of us mobiles, at his house, at half-four or five in the morning. Distance no object in the empty, rain-slashed streets. We ate his immense fry-ups, gulped down tea, and dispersed to our beds before the traffic got going as the dawn kipped the sentinel sky over the South Circular. Driving back to town, the window open to blast away at sleepiness, sharp silver air punched away at one's lungs, raw with a nightful of cigarette smoke.

It was a proper night job. We didn't stay up late to go to work as mere jazz musicians do, nor were we remotely like the moonlighting night-clubbers having a collation at the all-night tea bar outside Caxton Hall, drunk and shrill against the gloom. Rather, we were shades who got up in the late afternoon and never knew what mood we were in. Our bodies never did quite forgive the muddle, and teatime never did become a wholly satisfactory breakfast time. We felt the world slipping away as we realized newspapers were not about our disrupted lives, and girlfriends gave up being out of step with our shattered biorhythms and found other lovers.

The night held us in its maw. Now it is mostly the cries of the newborn or the demands of work that jerk me into near consciousness. And the night watches of an inner city shabby suburb can be pretty hectic.

Noisy drunks, on the cusp between drinking bouts, conduct curiously dignified rows outside my window. Across the gardens, the strange, dimly-mystic West Indian and his fat white girlfriend are awake behind their improvised table-cloth curtain which reveals more than it hides. Their window is a sordid, inviting, ikon. Their light is on, as it is for a dogwatch hour or so every night. I'm supposed to be stealing a midnight march on a deadline, but instead I stare down at the seamy vignette.

The Latvian is at his window again: a grey figure, almost transparent, with a brush of white hair. The light from the bare bulb in his room scratches against the parcel-brown wallpaper. Sometimes his gapping, wispy jaws work busily at some divine song. Is the nice old hound mourning high-stepping, gaudy, nights in the Riga of long ago? Certainly his world is an interior one. It has no comfort, and no clocks.

It is becoming light now, and the children are shuffling around, smelling of their tumbled beds. The Latvian's white pigeon is strutting the sill, staring out at its open air fellows and perhaps wondering if this will be the new day when it will rejoin them. Over on Radio 2, beamed to the insomniac and inconsolable, Ray Moore will soon be winding up his sweetly-careful dawn show. Wogan and bourgeois good sense will soon be ascendant.

Richard North



INSOMNIAC'S FRIEND

Patrick Lunt

BBC announcer, newsreader and presenter of Radio 2's You and the Night and the Music

I don't know where day and night is bridged: I treat it as a morning programme, though for the first hour or so it feels very late night. In spite of audience research and hundreds of letters you never know exactly who you are talking to: there's such a mixture - long distance lorry drivers, regulars who write in every week, security guards, one or two in hospital, the milkman and his wife, some who are just lonely and treat me as a pen friend. Some have no telephone, no relatives, no one. I think the distance and relative impersonality allows them to tell you things they wouldn't tell a neighbour. You get the odd nasty. Mostly you can read between the lines, say "sorry you slept badly". I have a more laid-back approach working at night. People are nicer then, because the world in general, even if it's going about its business, is less frenetic.... The enormous benefit, personally, is that I have more daytime to spend with my son. (He is married to newscaster Jan Leeming). And the one thing you don't get in this job is a Monday morning feeling!

## NIGHT NURSE

Debbie Button

Night sister at the Royal Free Hospital

There are three main reasons why I prefer working nights - apart from the fact that I enjoy nursing. One is that I get four clear nights off, the second is the extra money and the third is that I have more time for my patients. If they can't sleep I can have a chat, make them a cup of tea. They tell you their problems at night, especially on a women's gynae ward.

"The disadvantages are that night work's very anti-social. You need a very understanding partner, not so bad if you're single. Holiday times are the biggest strain. And if you have a lot of agency nurses there isn't the continuity of care, although fortunately this no longer applies here."

"I have thirty beds to look after and one or sometimes two nurses to help me. You don't have time to get nervous on a big ward. You're in charge and you have to cope, though there's a good security guard system if you need it. I do take my work home sometimes, worry about patients, if I've done it right. It drives my boyfriend mad but I can't help it."

Tomorrow: Friday Page  
The woman behind  
Ulster's Ian Paisley

## NIGHT DEALER

Berthold Oliner

Manager of the card room at a London club and an ex-international bridge player

Gambling is a service industry, so sure, the night people who work in it are nice, they have to be to last. If you lose at cards, even if it's for the moderate sums that change hands in Kalooki, you suffer, bleed

inside a little. I tell the players "so tomorrow is another day, have a cap of tea, don't worry."

"Fifty per cent of our players are women, not young, many widows. A lot are lonely. They come to play cards in pleasant surroundings and to be sociable.... I go to all the barmitsvaks and, unfortunately to a number of funerals as well. We have a good relationship with the casino downstairs but that's a different game. Those gamblers are compulsive. The croupiers are in the

business because they think it's glamorous and well paid. They're not allowed to talk to the customers. In the card room we fraternise constantly. Sunday night is the busiest of all. I have no car but most of the players live near me, offer me a lift home. Night life plays havoc with your private life. What wife wants a husband at four in the morning? It's rubbed four marriages for me, but my present girlfriend is a university lecturer who also works weekends, so that's fine.



## NIGHT PORTER

Charles McLauchlin

Head night porter of The Stafford Hotel

I'm like a priest, sworn to secrecy. That's what a good night porter should be - someone who helps his guests to unwind, provides them with whatever services they require, with the personal touch... someone who listens when they want to tell you things but never tells. A lot are in it for mercenary reasons - a bad thing in a night porter. I can go back to the days when Walt Disney stayed here, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope.... Most of our Prime Ministers know us, heads of state, Royalty, many famous people. This is a traditional hotel, British to the backbone, very high standards.... I'd say my memory for faces is brilliant: like a Chinaman, I never forget one. I never sleep on duty - need more when I'm off than I need. No, I don't mix with the other concierges, though most are friends of mine. In my spare time I like to study form - I applied for Julian Wilson's job you know but his educational background was better! And I haven't missed Wimbledon since 1960! I wouldn't be in the business if I had family ties. Like the priest... celibacy is better.

Judy Froshaug

## As the bishop said...

## NOROVER... Miles Kingston



Welcome! And sorry about the weather.

While you are here, you will no doubt want to see some of the great historic institutions of Britain. The Tower of London. Carnaby Street. Sir Roy Strong. But there are other things for which Britain is famous which are not quite so tangible, such as our fighting spirit, our silence in public transport and our sense of humour, and you will no doubt want to taste these as well. Today I want to initiate you into the British sense of humour.

Some people say it takes a lifetime to appreciate the British sense of humour. This is nonsense! Ten minutes of study and practice is all that it needs. British humour has now been analysed in our linguistic laboratories and we now know that the formula is so simple that it can be taught in a single newspaper column.

The way it works is this. A British joke comes in two parts. The first part is an ordinary sentence, such as "How would you like a bunch of fives in your face?" (an example of the British fighting spirit, by the way) or "I couldn't half do with a pint of bitter." (An example of British wit, by the way; the speaker means that he doesn't want a half of bitter, he wants a pint.)

Now, that by itself is not a joke. But when you add a second sentence to it, it becomes a joke. This second

sentence comes from a stock of British phrases which have never, so far as I know, been written down, but which constitute fully half of any British conversation. The most famous one is, "As the bishop said to the actress." Others, in no particular order, are:

"I bet you say that to all the girls."  
"That's the story of my life."  
"I thought you'd never ask."  
"Not so loud, or they'll all want one."  
"And I'm the Queen of Sheba."

"It's what your right arm's for."  
"No, but I saw the film."

All you have to do when an Englishman speaks to you, is select one of these phrases and answer him with it. Let's try, shall we?

"How would you like a bunch of fives in your face?"  
"As the bishop said to the actress."

Not quite right, is it? That's because the first sentence provides no chance of a double entendre. It would have been different if he'd said, "I can't go on much longer," or "These clothes make it very difficult for me." If the first sentence contains the word "it", you can almost always make a joke with "As the bishop said to the actress." But you will learn with practice. Now, let's try again.

"How would you like a bunch of fives in your face?"  
"I thought you'd never ask."

That makes a good joke, doesn't it? Also, I bet you say

that to all the girls would do very well there. No, but I saw the film would not work. It's all a question of getting a feel for it. I am sure you will have much fun finding out.

Note, by the way, that when a man says "I couldn't half do with a pint of bitter," this is one of those rare remarks that is too serious to be turned into a joke. You must always say to him, "Let me buy it for you."

If you would like a full list of these sentences with which to

make British jokes, I think the best thing to do is send a request to the editor of *Punch*, a magazine which has been collecting them for 140 years.

When you start practising, remember that, it may seem difficult at first, but you get the hang of it after a while.

As the bishop said to the actress.

(I will deal with our fighting spirit and our silence on public transport some other time. If you want to sample the first, just say: "Come outside and say that again." For the second, when the man asks for your face, do not say anything back to him.)

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 38)

ACROSS  
1 Platform (6)  
5 Verse (6)  
8 In the past (3)  
9 Paradise (6)  
10 Rigorous (6)  
11 Biting insect (4)  
12 Beautiful (8)  
13 Great fear (6)  
15 Hollow space (6)  
17 West African (8)  
20 Tidy (4)  
22 Rural (6)  
23 Searched (6)  
24 Finally (3)  
25 Laster (6)  
26 Alarmed (6)

DOWN:  
2 Music hall (5)  
3 Beckoner (7)  
4 Controller (7)  
5 Baffling question (5)  
6 Nest (5)  
7 Narrate (7)  
14 Tire out (7)  
15 Card game (7)  
16 Dare (7)

SOLUTION TO No 37

ACROSS: 1 Female 4 Droopy 7 Nine 8 Universe 9 Mackerel 12 Esp 15 Ocular 16 Cumber 17 Toe 19 King size 24 Trampoline 25 Flat 26 Osprey  
DOWN: 2 Narrowsy 3 Fund 2 Miniature 3 Educ 4 Drive 5 Oven 6 Posts 18 Knack 19 Louis 12 Embuzzer 13 Fort 14 Soft 18 Ozma 20 Lily 21 Green 22 Emil 23 Stew

## FLAVIA CORKSCREWS GOOD FOOD GUIDE

FLAVIA IS ASSESSING THE GASTRONOMIC POTENTIAL OF THE HIGH ST, AIDED BY KATE FANG....



I've always been against the use of corked pies as missiles....



Don't you object to the way the Americans sit their multi-story three-quarter poodles here, right in the heart of our cuisine?



Me too! Many's the time I've linked hands around a bombe Alaska.



We disapprove of your policy! We have a good mind to form a chain around you!

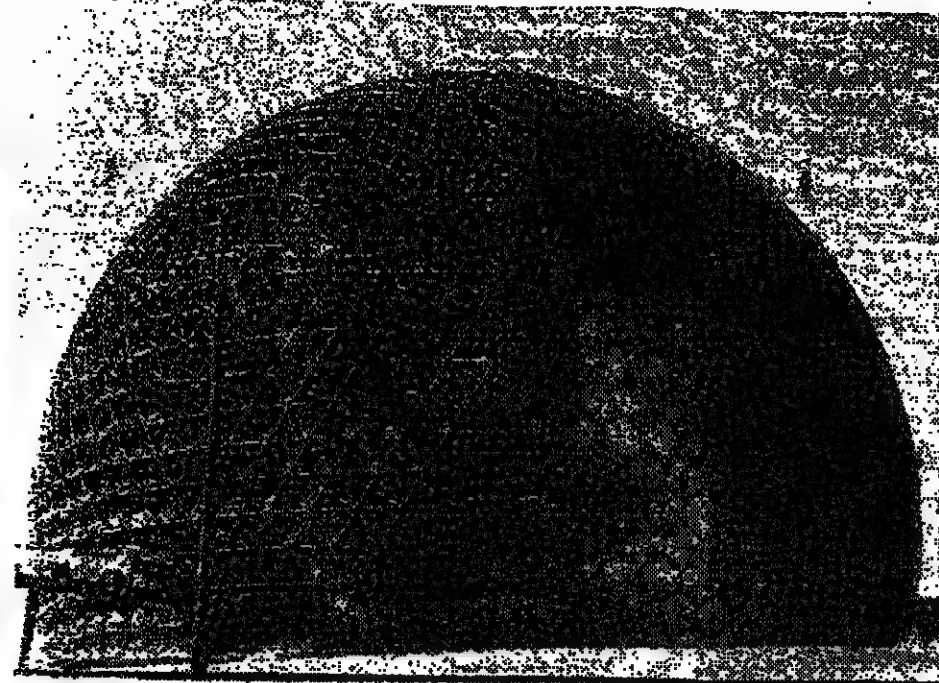


Too late! Ha ha! Too late! Macho Foods Inc. is itself a chain that already ENCIRCLES THE ENTIRE EARTH!



BOOKS

# High-tech Pied Piper



Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome at Expo '67 in Montreal (left) and "Bucky" himself (right).

## Bryan Appleyard assesses a method of saving the world

**Critical Path**  
By R. Buckminster Fuller

(Hutchinson, £12.95)

Every individual generates an ultra-high frequency electro-magnetic field. The polarity of this field alternates between positive and negative depending on the state of mind of the individual. Highly sensitive satellites will be used to read the dominant polarity of the entire population of the world. A total referendum or opinion poll can thus be conducted instantaneously.

Aluminium spheres one mile in diameter will be constructed. When heated by the sun the air inside will expand to the point where enclosed air plus structure will be lighter than the surrounding atmosphere. The spheres will float skyward carrying aloft several thousand people whose relative weight on this scale would be negligible.

Pigs, you might add, will fly. But nothing cools scepticism

like 500 pages of Buckminster Fuller. Seldom can there have been a thinker of such immense vanity, charm and unerring persuasiveness. Never can such sustained, hectoring egotism have been made so attractive.

The point is, of course, that to be a confirmed fan of "Bucky" you do not have to be convinced that any of his inventions will work. What matters is why and how he invents them and the quality of his mind. *Critical Path* may well be his last work (he is 88) and it makes it clearer than ever that his mind is indeed possessed of a sustaining sanity which redeems his dreadful prose and cajoles us to suspend our disbelief and our boredom.

These days it is an odd sensation to be subjected to an utterly confidently expressed vision of earthly regeneration. Aside from the growth of pseudo-religious fanaticism, we have largely resigned ourselves to a fragmented, partial understanding of the world. Science has advanced too rapidly for us to retain any overall grasp and the artistic crisis of modernism

is simply evaded. Few people now expect technology to save us but Bucky does and he is still up there, a high-tech Pied Piper luring the young into optimism and belief in limitless wealth and a conflict-free world.

Ever the practical man, Bucky includes precise instructions as to how this goal might be attained. Essentially this is via his own variety of radical inventions. All inventions along the critical path must be so efficient and workable that their rapid adoption by the entire world must be inevitable.

Behind all this are Bucky's metaphysics, hinging on the belief that our destiny is to be the infinitely efficient, infinitely materially well-endowed problem-solvers of our part of the universe. There is a God, scientifically verified by Bucky's July 12, 1979 version of *Ever Repeating the Lord's Prayer* which begins: "To be satisfactory to science all definitions must be stated in terms of experience."

Yet the reason we distrust visionaries who actually want to do something is that, from

Nuremberg to Brasilia, their visions have gone wrong. World views are all very well but historically they have either left people dead or as good as in some catastrophic urban development. Bucky's vision is entertaining, exhilarating and, at times, moving but Bucky might not be there to see it through and lesser souls would achieve lesser heavens.

And there is one disturbing problem along the critical path — the scenery is lousy. Aesthetics are not part of the world view. Perhaps beauty is simply so much unnecessary baggage until we reach the Promised Land. Commenting on his automated cotton mill, designed in 1952, Bucky remarks: "We designed this factory to be completely automated. Inadvertently it became extraordinarily beautiful." This is, of course, good old fashioned functionalism, the radical innocence that believes the imagination and technology can be one as long as the latter is pursued with sufficient rigour. In Bucky's books they always are; in the real world, almost never.

## Fiction A bit of ivory in a Big Apple

**In Search of Love and Beauty**  
By Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

(John Murray, £8.50)

**Flying to Nowhere**  
By John Fuller

(The Salamander Press, £4.95)

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala is of the Jane Austen school of novelists; she takes her little bit of ivory and works deliberately within its limits, creating a world where nothing matters beyond its confines. Just as the Napoleonic Wars barely impinge upon Mansfield Park, so the last fifty years, from the 1930s to the present day, are seen in *In Search of Love and Beauty* merely as milestones in the relationships of a tiny circle of characters. New York is the ideal setting — again, a little bit of New York, but instantly recognizable. Where else could one find this capacity for total self-absorption, this particular conglomeration of "sex, drugs, nerves and religion"?

Mrs Jhabvala turns her ironic gaze on a small group of German refugees, who have comfortably transferred their wealth and adapted their social position to lofty New York apartments and "The Old Vienna" coffee house. Into their lives comes Leo Kellerman, "a yet undefined genius", who has met Freud and Reich and who leads them all for the next forty years in a tortuous country dance of sex and exploitation. He finally reaches his peak at the age of seventy, in the foundation of the Academy of Potential Development in a vast Charles Addamsish mansion in the Hudson Valley. And here, ever drawn by his personal magnetism — undeniable, however bogus — come Louise Sonnenblick and her family.

Their outstanding characteristic is their ability to take themselves utterly seriously. Louise, once the pattern of a devoted wife and mother, throws herself so entirely into her affair with Leo, despite rejection and humiliation, that even when ever seventy, when "it might have been expected that her only concern with her heart would be a clinical one", she thinks of nothing else. Her daughter Marietta, who has made the requisite Indian "trip" of the 1960s, finds her only real interest in her homosexual son Mark, who is in turn worshipped uncritically by his adopted sister Natasha.

Peripheral characters are briefly drawn into the charmed, incandescent circle, as one member or another feels the urge for a new partner in the dance; but deep down they all know that the only worthwhile victims to grapple with are each other. The one person to break through is the splendidly anarchic Regi, Louise's oldest friend. Outrageously selfish, scarlet-wigged and trailing gigolos, she delivers home truths with relish and puts the absurdity of Leo's pretensions into perspective.

Thank heaven for Regi. Without her this would be a dull book. Mrs Jhabvala has lost none of her old talent for acute observation, but accumulation of detail can deaden as well as engage the imagination.

*Flying to Nowhere*, the poet John Fuller's first essay into adult fiction, is an extraordinary little book. "Little" is descriptive, not pejorative. This, too, is deliberately constructed on a small scale. The action, such as there is, takes place on an island, in a brief span of time. The setting is vaguely Welsh, medieval and Papist, but nothing is exactly specified. At the end the reader is left largely in suspense as to what has actually happened.

But behind the Lilliputian framework loom questions of life and death, good and evil, innocence and corruption. An auspicious start for Fuller the novelist, a tour de force. I wonder how he will follow it up.

# Tangerine-Flake Tory

**The Purple Decades**  
By Tom Wolfe

(Cape £8.95)

**Richard Holmes reports on the thoughts of a Kandy-Kolored Conservative with a passion for the Right Stuff and his pilgrimage to the true heartland of Blueberry Pie**

Purple, huh? Tom Wolfe, the dude in the White Suit, the man who rapped us with "Radical chic" and the "Mc-decade", the man who reached Parts of the Typewriter that other Reporters never rumbled, is now all of 51 and going deep purple. As he might have put it in the early *Esquire* days: "!!!!!!!" (I'll explain what I mean in a moment; this is just the "downstage voice" of the New Journalism.) Lordy, lordy, how Tom flies.

Here, anyhow is a retrospective collection of his work, 21 essays and extracts, from 1964 to 1981, running through the whole mad circus of his American sub-cultures — from Surfers, Acid Freaks, West Side Divorcees, and Soho Bohos, to Astronauts, Moonies, Manhattan Socialites, Mid-Atlantic Men, Pop Painters, and "Down-Filled People" — "they wear down-filled coats in public. Out on the ski-slopes they look like hand-grenades. They drive two-door cars with instrument panels like an F-16's."

Altogether it covers the entire spectrum of his bizarre, wonderfully funny, High Journalism, and displays a distinct and steady colour change — tone-shift, red-shift — from the ecstatic "Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake" of the mid-sixties, to the increasingly despicible Purple and Puce of his most recent attacks on Modern Art (*The Painted Word*, 1975) and Modern Architecture (*From Bauhaus to Our House*, 1981). Wolfe's grin, in fact, becomes something of a snarl: from Electric-Kool to Juvenal.

It's all still immensely exhilarating to read. He dashes off his special form of baroque, euphuistic, glossy-magazine prose with a gusto that is quite breathtaking. One has to go back to the Regency — to Hazlitt, to Charles Lamb — for anything equivalent in English. Indeed it is arguable that what Wolfe calls the "New Journalism" (1973) really began with Hazlitt's essay *The Fight* (1822), recounting the pugilistic combat between Bill Neate and The Gasman a mile to the left of Hungerford, in much the same way that Wolfe describes the Stock Car Races at the North Wilkesboro Speedway in North Carolina. It is comic, hyperbolic prose, that gets right inside the language, attitudes, accents and reflexes of subjects; and it is masterly in presenting an action, a drama. "The voice tells you (on a flight from Phoenix preparing for its final approach into Kennedy Airport, New York, just after dawn): 'Now, folks, uh... this is the captain... ummm... We've



Tom Wolfe

got a little of red light here on the control panel that's tryin' to tell us that the landin' gear's not... uh... lockin' into position when we lower'em... Now I don't believe that little of red light knows what it's talking about...'

Freeze.

Moreover it is superbly visual. Wolfe writes like an anthropologist. (A "Marian" is the current term). Clothes, furniture, hair-styles, hand gestures, brand name food and drink, ways of walking, sitting, moving in and out of a room,

are marvellously observed and reproduced (often *mimed*). The satire always moves from exterior surface to interior value, status, ambition.

"The new liberated working man would live as the Cultivated Ascetic. He would be modelled on the BA-degree Greenwich Village bohemian of the late 1940's — dark wool Hudson Bay shirts, tweed jackets, flannel trousers, briarwood pipes, good books, sandals and simplicity — except he would live in a Worker Housing project." So much for the visionary architects at Yale and Harvard.

But while the radical style has remained constant, the direction of the satire has become more conservative. This is the keynote of the collection. If there is one dominant theme in *The Purple Decades*, it is Wolfe's rediscovery of the All American Hero. (Europe and Britain slide steadily into the penumbra.) The Dandy is drawn to the Man of Action; the White Suit salutes — well — the Red Neck. We glimpse this early on in the piece on Junior Johnson, Stock Car Racer (1965), who represents the old true breed of small-town, Appalachian coolness and good ol' boy physical bravado. "The rural Southern code of honor and courage". It recurs more openly in *The Truest Sport: Jousting with Sam and Charlie* (1975), about a pair of US Navy fighter pilots flying hair-raising combat missions from a carrier into North Vietnam.

It reaches its apogee in *The Right Stuff* (1979), Wolfe's best and most sustained work (two long extracts), which follows the career of the Mercury Project astronauts and their initiation into the secret "fraternity" of absolute bravery: "Naturally this was never mentioned. Yet there it was. Manliness, manhood, manly courage... there was something ancient, primordial, irresistible about the challenge of this stuff, no matter what a sophisticated and rational age one might think he lived in."

This moral pilgrimage through the Purple to the true heartland of Blueberry Pie, gives one much food for thought. Of course the Dandy and Daredevil have always been close allied (*vide* Brummell or Baudelaire); but Wolfe's growing passion for national virtue, for the "right stuff", as opposed to the "wrong stuff", is clearly indicative of something much larger, an historic mood powerfully at work there across the Atlantic. (Does President Reagan have the "right stuff" one wonders?) British readers may greet it with a slightly quizzical eyebrow; that Tom Wolfe would instantly raise into a slightly parabolic of mocking prose. Well, hell, Tom, there's no stoppin' ya.

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## Oscar winner

**The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde**  
By Peter Ackroyd

(Hamish Hamilton, £7.95)

What man can get inside the mind of any other man to reproduce his secret thoughts and feelings — unless that other is a product of his own imagination? We may read Oscar Wilde's personal letters, see his plays, study biographies built on these and on lively descriptions by friends, relatives and enemies, yet conceivably not reach the man himself. So, in this absolutely stunning book, how near does Peter Ackroyd get?

For *The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde* is no less than a recreation of Wilde during his last four months of life, clothing the bare recorded facts of a brief yet seemingly eternal period when, after visiting Italy and elsewhere as Sebastian Melmoth, he subsisted in Paris on borrowed funds. Slowly dying from his early injury contracted in prison and tormented by nightmares, he consorted with youths and pimps; on the boulevards pointed out with scorn, in restaurants all too often requested to leave.

The whole journal, or *apologia pro vita sua*, is shot through with sensuous lyricism. There is a tale of the young prince fatally screened from reality (all these tales concern princes); Oscar, dying, seeks in such jewelled parables to drown the bleak present. There are fantasies like his mother's telling him, when "like a wounded animal" he sought refuge between trials, that his real father was the patriot poet Smith O'Brien: to which he ascribes his instinctive identification as an outcast, who

despises yet yearns for recognition. When he shows the journal to Frank Harris and Bosie, Harris dismisses it, tripping him on inaccurate details — and indeed there are plenty, no doubt intentional. Bosie abruptly says that though, like Oscar, it is "full of lies... absurd and mean and foolish", he should publish it.

By this time it's no exaggeration to say that the reader will involuntarily think: *So of course he did, and here it is*. Not only does Peter Ackroyd exert a mastery command of language and ideas that credibly evokes Wilde's sharp wit in epigram or paradox, but he captures the raw vulnerability of the man isolated behind his mask. During his miserable school-days, Wilde tells us — I mean Ackroyd tells us — he learnt the technique of dissimulating by caricature. In adulthood he formed the habit of lying to himself, pursuing Beauty and Aestheticism in the guise of clown-dandy until Beauty leads him to the tenderness of "Greek love". A paradox to the end, to expiate his cardinal lie he becomes a criminal-cum-martyr.

Of course questions crowd forward. For example, a complex web of reasons must lie behind Wilde's creative sterility in his last years. Yet we hear little of the content of his long prison letter to Bosie, from which *De Profundis* was eventually quarried, including that obsessive, if temporary, belief in the manifestation of Christ.

The book is a brilliant testament in its own right. Whether or not it is the real Oscar, the individual portrayed would have made a mark on society and literature. Perhaps it is as close to Wilde as we may hope to get.

Mary Cosh

Isabel Raphael

## Crime Messy life and clever spies

**Think Big, Think Dirty**  
By William Garner

(Heinemann, £7.95)

John le Carré is not the only one writing espionage novels that do all the work of the novel proper and carry with them an extra edge. Here is William Garner, a lesser known figure whose ninth book this is, with a story (Lefty Whitehall spy-catcher and a Mole, in essence) that gives him ample and untrammelled opportunity to consider with us what should be our attitude to the mess we call life. He tells it in a marvellous atmosphere of men manoeuvring, showing us thus what in large part life is, and he illuminates the telling with nicely pungent observations

("Morpurgo was beginning to feel like an ecumenical delegate, radically different in dogma but obliged, as his Christian duty, to be meek and charitable").

He also contrives to portray spy procedures, those ever-fascinating semi-facts, with impressive veracity, and his people are such as we can recognize in some depth while his descriptive writing is excellent ("The dangerous purple of hot temper and high living") and we are riding high. Not, alas, ultimately on the topmost plane. Garner is betrayed, I think, by his reliance at times on the old suspense trick of leaving the reader in the dark and in his final pages descends to purely literary mystification, though of a sort that would be enjoyed in a lesser book.

But his stature, his nearness to Le Carré/Deighton, is illustrated by a similar venture into spy fiction saying something, a

good American first novel, *Convergence* by Jack Fuller (*Hodder & Stoughton*, £7.95). This is an attack on the philosophy of the CIA, old hat but a good deal subtler than most earlier ones, combined with a touching story of an innocent, well drawn indeed, involved in the dirty world. Fuller has something to put across (that convergence, not opposition, is the way), but though he has chosen fiction as the most effective means to do it, his actual writing is oddly rebarbative and the whole grips much less than it should. But it tries.

Rebarb in Hell, by David Fletcher (*Macmillan*, £6.50). Fletcher writes with a genuine intensity that etches the memory. Here a horror-battered Fleetspree becomes an *acte gratuit* murder.

H. R. F. Keating

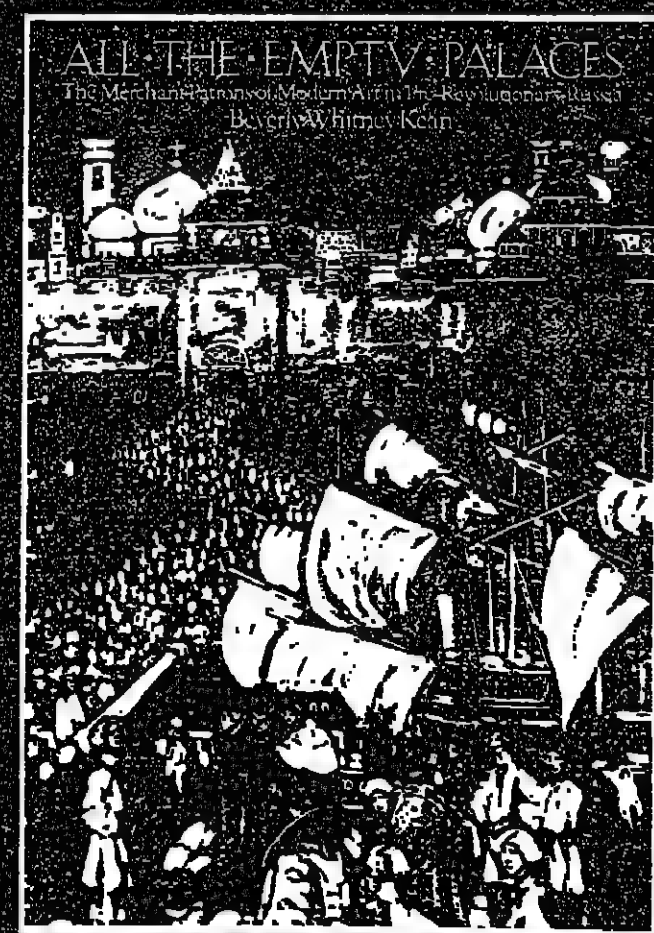
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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Israel's new man

I confidently expect that the Israeli cabinet will this weekend confirm the appointment of Yehuda Avner as the new ambassador to London, to succeed Shlomo Argov who was shot in June last year. Admittedly Avner's is by my count the eleventh name to come to the fore. My revelation that Elihu Lankin, who commanded a gun-running boat during the anti-British terrorist campaigns, was going to be nominated for the job effectively scuppered his chances.

## Artful doings

The £60m takeover battle over Southey's is not the only wrangle causing acrimony in the art world. Each year the Government gives £1m to help regional and university museums to buy works of art. Subject to a nominal right of veto by the Arts Minister, allocation is in the gift of Sir Roy Strong, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. But with the V & A soon to be removed from direct ministerial control and become a trustee museum, MPs are pressing for the £1m to be distributed by the Museums and Galleries Commission. While the minister consults, Strong is busily lobbying. Despite his eloquence I expect the MPs to prevail.

## Savoy fare

To please Professor Arnold Bender, who says we are all saltaholics, and to launch a sodium-free salt substitute called Selora, which is to salt what Stork was to butter, the Savoy chef Aston Edelmann yesterday produced an entirely salt-free menu. It was, he boasted, the first completely desalinated meal in the world, but I am inclined to take that with a pinch of, well, you know what.

## Timely quip

The extremely beautiful and charming Princess Michael of Kent gave what may have been the first royal interview to have been broadcast live when she was guest of the week on *Woman's Hour* yesterday. Asked about the critical press coverage she has received, she replied wittily: "I try to have a sense of humour... and only read *The Times*."

## Consuming

After an acrimonious confrontation on Monday's *BBC Breakfast Time* programme Gerard Vaughan, the minister for consumer affairs, gallantly offered Elizabeth Filkin, the director of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, a lift from the studio in his ministerial car. Thanks to the unexploded German bomb, the two were stuck in the traffic together for more than two hours. "It did give me an opportunity to get our views across," Filkin said airily yesterday, but even so the minister has announced an independent review of the running of the organization.

## Buxton ho

The theme of this summer's Buxton Festival is Boccaccio, and flight to the hills for sybaritic entertainment. Not only will there be a retrospective of Pasolini's Boccaccio films and two operas, *Vivaldi's Griselda* and *Gounod's Le Colombe*, inspired by Boccaccio stories, but the festival is recruiting a cast of one hundred to read the complete *Decameron*, ten chapters on each of ten days. Artists of every sort will be press-ganged for this first public reading of the bawdy classic, but others to be invited to read chapters include Lord Goodman, the Duke of Devonshire, Lady Spencer, who reopened Buxton spa last year; her mother, Barbara Cartland, whose books are rather like Boccaccio diluted with spa water; Gerald Kaufman, who is a festival fan; and Roy Hattersley, who was rash enough to mention one in print.

## Get the drift?

Scots! Hold on to your snowballs! Colin Reid, lecturer in public law at Aberdeen University, counsels that my declaration that snowballing is now legal in Scotland was a rite premature. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 has come into force for most purposes, and is intended to replace various local Acts and the Burgh Police (Scotland) Acts 1892 to 1911, as I said - but the older legislation remains in force for the time being, and will not cease to have effect until the end of 1984 or such other date as the Secretary of State may specify.

It would be a mean old procurator fiscal who brought charges under the legislation, but it could happen, and the transitional period is to allow local authorities to produce any by-laws they consider necessary to deal with things not covered in the Act - like snowballing.

PHS Susan London had received a letter from the Stacks Croybridge Hotel, Aylesbury. "At long last," it says, "the first of our Christmas brochures have arrived," and encloses one. What, London wants to know, happened to the first chicken?

PHS

## Irving Kristol reports on America's controversial line on El Salvador

# The only way for Reagan

New York

If Jimmy Carter had been elected president in 1980, what would US policy now be toward El Salvador? Does anyone really think that it would differ essentially from President Reagan's, which can be fairly described as "minimal, defensive intervention"? Or, for that matter, what would a President Mondale's policy be? The rhetoric might be different, but this would not affect the substance of policy.

Any president would find in this case he had very little freedom of action. He certainly would be reluctant to send in troops; Americans are having enough trouble governing themselves without trying to govern El Salvador. On the other hand, he is not going to sit by and watch El Salvador join Cuba and Nicaragua as another "Marxist" dictatorship supported by and allied with the Soviet Union.

It is conceivable, if barely, that an American president would take seriously the public suggestions of some Latin American countries, and of the West European allies, that we push the government of El Salvador to negotiate with the rebel forces, in the hope of establishing some sort of "popular front" government.

He would quickly find that to be a blind alley. If the rebels were interested in mere political participation, they would not have boycotted the last elections. A government that emerges from such

an election is not about to appoint guerrilla leaders to its cabinet, especially when these leaders have made it quite clear that they are interested in nothing less than total power, undisturbed by free elections.

The Reagan policy in El Salvador is pretty much an inevitable policy for any administration. So why is it so controversial?

The answer, in part, has something to do with the spirit of democratic opportunism that today envelops the Democratic Party when it is in opposition. That party, and especially its liberal wing, has come close to believing that it is the only legitimate governing party, and that its task is not merely to win the next election but to destroy any Republican administration that presumes to sit in office.

Such democratic opportunism, however, would itself run the risk of affronting public opinion were it not sanctioned and legitimized by a set of ideas that are unexamined truths for influential sections of the media and academia. In the case of El Salvador, there are two such ideas that cloak irresponsibility with the mantle of statesmanship. The first is a simple-minded, "progressive" economic determinism. The second is a self-inflicted verdict of guilt when confronted with militant, left-wing, egalitarian ideologies.

This economic determinism, so ingrained a mental habit that even conservative politicians resort to it without a second thought, is

revealed every time we encounter unrest or turmoil or subversion in a poor country. We immediately start thinking about the nation's poverty as being beyond doubt the "fundamental cause" of the political turmoil.

Practically every country in Latin America - and El Salvador most notably - has a long history of political instability, social unrest, and economic ineptitude. Why is this so? Why has it been so for more than 150 years? No one seems able to come up with a plausible answer. All one can say is that the traditions - political, religious, cultural - that shape Latin American thinking and behaviour are such as to make it exceedingly difficult for the countries of South America to proceed along the line followed by North America and Western Europe.

Whatever decent solution might exist to the internal problems of Latin America lies in the womb of time. We can offer economic assistance, of course, and where political stability exists, economic aid can be helpful. But political stability is the essential prerequisite. This is most especially and obviously the case when the government confronts a well-organized guerrilla insurgency, since a major goal of the insurgents is, precisely, to destroy the economy. This is exactly what is happening in El Salvador.

The other main ideological problem derives from the fact that when faced by a political opposition

that asserts a claim to "social justice" - a presumptive economic egalitarianism enforced by political coercion - Americans immediately feel defensive and impotent.

We are so disoriented by that appeal to "social justice" that we immediately, in our minds, begin to delegitimize the existing regime by wondering whether it really does have popular support, or by focusing on the various inadequacies (eg, military incompetence) and sins (eg, violations of human rights) of that regime. The inadequacies are real enough, as are the sins. But somehow we do not get similarly upset when we see such inadequacies and sins in left-wing regimes, nor do we spontaneously seek for reasons to think better of the insurgencies they have to cope with.

The issue in El Salvador is just about as clear-cut and simple as any foreign policy issue can be. The options are limited, the choice would seem to be obvious. What is absurdly complicated, to the point of being self-destructive, is the state of mind with which so many influential Americans approach this issue.

The author is Professor of Social Thought at the New York University Graduate School of Business. This article first appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*.

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## Chronology of the Iran-Iraq war

October 1979: Iraq demands abrogation of 1975 treaty delimiting border with Iran in disputed Shatt-al-Arab waterway; calls on Iran to evacuate strategic islands at mouth of Gulf; demands autonomy for Iran's Baluchi, Kurdish and Arab communities.  
November 14: Demands rejected.  
December 14-March 22, 1980: Border skirmishes.  
April, 1980: Thousands of Shia, Muslim supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini - deported from Iraq. Khomeini calls for overthrow of President Saddam Hussein.  
September 21, 1980: Major Iraqi offensive: oil refinery centre of Khomamehr captured. Abadan surrounded.  
January 1981: Iranian counter-offensive. Four months fighting lead to virtual stalemate.  
September 1981: Abadan siege lifted.  
May 1982: Khomamehr recaptured after Iranian spring offensive.  
June 1982: Iraqi forces withdraw from Iran.  
July 1982: Iranian army crosses into Iraq. Heaviest fighting of war. Total deaths on both sides since it began put at 150,000.  
February 1983: New Iranian offensive fizzles out after early reverses.  
April 1983: Iraqi protest at continued shelling of border towns.



# Inside war-torn Iraq: will Saddam be the last victim?

The war between Iraq and Iran, now two and a half years old, has settled into a stalemate. Iraq's armed forces can contain the occasional Iranian offensives but cannot regain the military initiative. Peace attempts run into the obstacle of Ayatollah Khomeini's passionate antipathy to the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, and his insistence on Saddam's removal as an Iranian war aim.

The Ayatollah evidently believes that if he keeps up the pressure long enough, Iraq is bound to crack. He may not be wrong.

The Iraqi president is now increasingly dependent on Arab paymasters who would gladly ditch him if they could be sure of a stable peace. He is seeking desperately to broaden his domestic political base and has made overtures to a wide range of opposition forces proposing a national coalition government.

These forces include leftists, democratic nationalists, Islamic groups and - perhaps most significantly - Kurdish parties involved in a long-drawn-out guerrilla struggle in the northern mountains. The Kurds are Iraq's biggest opposition group. After dark their guerrilla forces control large areas of northern Iraq. In the past President Saddam's regime has been ruthless in its treatment of opposition, especially Kurdish opposition. That he should now offer power-sharing to a group like the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which has played a leading role in the Kurdish guerrilla struggle, suggests that he is indeed a desperate man.

President Saddam is going ahead defiantly with a few prestige projects like the \$2,000m mosque in Baghdad. Yet public servants'

salaries, including those of officers, have been cut back 20 per cent. Inflation is running at around 50 per cent. Payments to Iraqi contractors are reportedly being postponed for two years.

Iraq is seeking to reschedule nearly 2,000 million dollars of payments due this year on its total debt of about \$7,000m. Foreign reserves have fallen from more than \$30,000m before the war to less than \$5,000m today. The present shortfall in revenue is estimated by western analysts to range from 500 to 900 thousand million dollars a month. The regime has even resorted to selling public sector industries to private capital.

The key question is what position the Gulf states will adopt in the present financial crisis. Hitherto they have spent \$46,000m in loans to Iraq. Saudi Arabia is believed to have given an extra thousand million dollars a month plus an additional amount of about 6-7,000 million dollars in January.

This last payment seems to have come in the wake of a joint plot by Iran and Syria against Iraq. The plan was, allegedly, for an Iranian attack to coincide with a Syrian move to cut the Aqaba-Baghdad highway at their common border in the Mafrqa area. Because of the involvement of Syria and Libya, both allies of the Soviet Union, the western camp closed ranks behind the Iraqi regime. Saudi Arabia provided finance. The French even opened their military stores to the Iraqi army in addition to giving credit to French companies operating in Iraq.

Reports are that this latest hand-out exasperated the Saudis, who are

growing increasingly restive. Even the Gulf states cannot go on spending such sums indefinitely.

As the financial noose has tightened in recent months, so President Saddam was led to make small political offerings to the Kurds. Kurds drafted into the army have been allowed to serve in Kurdish areas. Kurdish prisoners have been released and thousands of Kurdish deserters given amnesty.

The reason for these concessions is that the northern Kurdish areas of Iraq have been slipping from his grasp. The countryside there is out of government control from dusk onwards. Like Lilliputians tying down Gulliver, the Kurdish guerrillas have effectively trussed up the regime through many small-scale raids and operations. Anyone the Kurds may consider worth kidnapping - government officials, foreign engineers - travels in convoy under military escort. President Saddam needs to neutralize the Kurds, at the very least. It would be even better for him, of course, to rally their support.

The dilemma of whether to join a coalition regime is particularly perplexing for the Kurds. They have learned from experience not to trust others. When they have no real guarantee that any future regime in Baghdad will do any better by them, can they really afford to ignore the bait of autonomy that President Saddam is dangling?

Any autonomous Kurdistan with a measure of internal democracy co-existing alongside an autocratic regime in Baghdad is like an elephant inside a bean canister: fundamentally indigestible. And one

interpretation of President Saddam's present strategy by opponents is that it is no more than a transparent device to buy time. On the other hand, if he feels that his survival is at stake, he is capable of taking any kind of gamble to stay in power.

Though the largest Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla group - Jalal Talabani's PUK - was negotiating indirectly with President Saddam as recently as January, it is now anxious to give the impression that its dealings with the regime are over. The ostensible reasons are the united front it has newly created with 19 other Iraqi opposition groups and the regime's present weakness.

Some Kurds argue that even an Islamic Republic in Iraq would be preferable to the present regime. Such a regime would be unpopular, unstable and, above all, unbefield by the West. The West might then perhaps be led to support the Kurds' claim for an independent state that was denied them after the First World War. (There are 16 million Kurds living in Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria.)

The Kurds are themselves, however, deeply divided and Saddam Hussein, with his back to the wall, is a clever politician. If, for example, he is able to bring some Kurds into the regime, can others afford to stay out? Suppose he concedes one of the major Kurdish demands - the stationing of 20,000 Kurdish troops in their own area with an international guarantee?

Whatever they say publicly, the Kurds cannot afford to stay out of Saddam's deadly game.

Helga Graham

# Building on the glory of Gandhi

at a minute fraction of their real cost.

First to protest was the Association of Independent Producers (which includes David Puttnam). Since then, the new 200-strong Directors Guild of Great Britain has called for a reversal of government policy. The Guild is also banking on an audio-visual revolution in the near future with the advent of cable, they say, television, cinema and theatre will flow together both as platforms for artistic expression and as sources of funding.

In December, Lord Grade set up a new company which would put stars such as Glenda Jackson and Albert Finney on the West End stage and then broadcast the performances abroad on cable. Now Lord Grade, as part of the US Embassy Communications company, has bought the US pay-TV and cable rights to *Gandhi* - a deal that went through the week before the Oscars and is worth a reported \$17m about £11m.

In some countries Goldcrest, the company that nurtured *Gandhi*, is selling David Puttnam's *First Love* TV series for cinema release. Goldcrest sales chief Bill Gavin recently explained that "everything has changed in the space of 18 months, simply because American cable is now devouring everything we can supply, and paying larger sums than we ever imagined in the process". In Britain, Rediffusion, the TV rentals company involved in cable development, have already invested £1.5m in film and TV production, with the promise of more to follow.

But the question remains: will the City invest in the rapidly changing film business? Clive Parsons (producer of *Gregory's Girl*): "At least the awards will focus people's attitudes here on our successes abroad". Jeremy Thomas, producer of two of Nicolas Roeg's pictures, feels the Oscars "can only do good on the finance side. The industry has been considered a failure, wrongly, for too long." But Tony Williams

Ronald Butt

# Yon Cassius, Foot's unlikely hero

The programme for the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of *Julius Caesar* (which the critics do not exactly urge us to rush to see) is eccentric in typographical design and ingenious in content. *Julius Caesar* is a political play, and as 'though to compensate the audience for any disappointment with what happens to it on the stage, the programme is embellished with (among much else) political comment.

"Eminent contemporary political figures" are asked the following A-level question: "Were the conspirators right to have assassinated Julius Caesar for the public good, in order to prevent the creation of what seemed to them a virtual dictatorship?"

Six of the seven replies were judicious in content and would satisfy the examiner's requirement that the question answered must be the question asked. General Sir John Hackett concluded that the question involved in this assassination was essentially the same as that which would be involved in deciding to launch a nuclear attack if the public good seemed to require it and confessed: "I do not know the answer."

Sir Harold Wilson thought it was not "appropriate" to assassinate a national leader; Mr Neil Kinnock, and Mr Peter Jenkins of *The Guardian*, thought Caesar's assassination unjustified because it ushered in a worse dictatorship than Caesar's. Mr Enoch Powell, in a neat reference to the plot of *Essex* against Elizabeth I, observed contentedly: "How happy England, with legitimacy to be its shield against impending perils!"

In this galaxy of sober comment, however, one contribution shone with a quite peculiar light, illuminating the commentator far more than the subject. Mr Michael Foot replied: "Cassius is the real hero of the play, the real man of flesh and blood and feeling, the true, responsible, far-seeing revolutionary. Maybe Shakespeare himself wanted to call this, the greatest of his political plays, by its proper name. But some theatrical agent or promoter stepped in and insisted that the title *Julius Caesar* was necessary for box office purposes."

Thus, alone of the respondents, Mr Foot dodges the question. He escapes by lauding a hero-figure. Cassius becomes a kind of Roman Nye Bevan. This kind of escapism is, of course, characteristic of Mr Foot's political utterances generally and it is of more than literary significance. It arises from the split political personality of a man who, in his private political fantasies, broods favourably on revolutionary scenarios elsewhere that his other parliamentary and law-abiding self could never countenance at home.

Still more illuminating, however, is Mr Foot's nomination of Cassius as "the real hero... the far-seeing revolutionary." (Did Cassius foresee Philip and the harsher domination of the Caesars that these events precipitated?) It is the admiration of one man with a lean and hungry look for another. The parallel is quite startling. Like the Cassius of Caesar's description, Mr Foot "reads much; he is a great observer..."

Such men as he be never at heart's ease.

Whiles they behold a greater than themselves.

And therefore are they very dangerous.

Most people's politics are probably determined more by genetic predisposition than they care to think, and Mr Foot's are those of an instinctive anti-powers-that-be man, an overturner. He finds it hard to pay respect to the existing order. To

a man with this kind of pride, Shakespeare's, if not the historical, Cassius who

...had as lief not be as live to be

In awe of such a thing as I myself

would naturally be appealing.

So to such a character he gives heroic status, even though Cassius makes false propaganda to win Brutus to his cause.

I will this night,

In several hands, in at his windows throw.

As if they came from several citizens,

Writings all tending to the great opinion

That Rome holds of his name...

What is a little trickery of this sort compared with what goes on inside the Labour Party? What is Cassius's bitter tirade against Caesar compared with Mr Foot's notion of truth that made him say of Mrs Thatcher: "She worships the profit motive, the money test. Nothing else, no other value in life, is allowed to count."

Yet, of course, there is a difference. Mr Foot (even metaphorically) is not prepared to wield the revolutionary dagger to usher in the social revolution that will make all men equal and create a fine new order. He will not abandon constitutional ways, for he is a parliamentarian, content to admire great revolutionaries from his armchair. That is his and our safeguard. As for making Cassius his hero, that you might say is no more than literary jeu d'esprit.

But it is very careless *jeu d'esprit*, and Mr Foot is habitually more careless about facts and consequences than politicians who wish to be taken seriously ought to be. In this case, he has little excuse. He is essentially a bookish, when not a ranting, man. The old bibliophile is the name that Mr Alan Watkins has coined for him. So he should be aware that Shakespeare's Cassius is a man of envy and resentment, a man who had to live to enjoy power would probably (as the great quarrel with Brutus over Cassius's bribery shows) have been corrupted by it.

The same is true of the historical Cassius. If Cassius had defeated Octavian and Antony, would the empire of the Caesars have been better than that of the Caesars? Why does not Mr Foot know that every new order (most conspicuously Lenin's) has been corrupted by power and that the case against his socialist new order is that in the modern world it gives greater power to the state than any other system.

The historical Cassius killed Caesar not for institutional liberty but to restore the power of the aristocratic order. Apart from proud dislike of the existing power, he had little in common with Mr Foot's aspirations. But they did share one thing, Cassius seemed no more aware of the consequences of his deed than Mr Foot worries about the consequences of inflating the economy with £10,000m, taking us out of the European Economic Community, putting up protectionist shutters and unilaterally renouncing nuclear defence.

Caesar's death by 23 wounds only made matters worse. But they were bad anyway. "Debauched by demagogues and largess, the Roman People were ready for the Empire and the dispensation of bread and circuses" was the comment on these events by that great authority, Professor Ronald Syme.

Fortunately, the British people do not seem to be ready for the not dissimilar bread and circuses offered by Mr Foot's Labour Party. Fortunately, also, Mr Foot is really no Cassius. The irony is that in his own party he is more likely to be metaphorically knifed than knifed.

Susan Marling

# Seeing red over the Blues

Joseph Horowitz is a hard man to shoot. A composer and professor of music at the Royal College gets to hear some strange noises. Electronic music produced by hitting the exhaust pipe of a 1959 BSA motorbike with a rusty spanner, tunes which have much in common with the rumbling of a full stomach, concertos for a bagpipe and Bex Blass Shampoo-Master. But what I took him came as a genuine surprise.

From the Rediffusion music factory in Orpington I had been given a six-pack of background music cassettes. Twenty-four hours of neatly categorized numbers. Red, Green, Blue and - wait for it - Beautiful Music. Listening to it all was like eating chips with gloves on. What musical chemistry could produce such blandness? I packed the cassettes in a violin case and went to see the master.

We began with some Green. Green is middle of the road. Very suitable for flyers and lifts and other places where there's a minimal chance of an attentive audience. Horowitz gave the first tune, "London Town", his full attention. He frowned and made little tapping movements with his foot. "This music has been made by a melody very clever," he said eventually. "It's a sound which reminds you of music but isn't. An excellent engineer has taken a chord sequence and just devised a pattern of harmonic variations. There's no pronounced melody and beat that you can follow and the chords hang on in a way that it's difficult to tap your foot in time."

"One of the first jobs I ever had at the Bristol Old Vic. I had to compose background music for the interval. I nearly lost the job because I couldn't write music that people wouldn't listen to. It's very difficult."

"Most composers have something in their music which makes it exciting or disturbing so that you can't help but be involved. This, you see, has had every idiosyncrasy removed. Remarkable. As I say, it's anti-music, but I pay tribute to the gangster who created it."

I was just getting going on the Red (the "big beat sound, with brass percussive rhythm and discreetly spaced vocals") when we were interrupted. Before I could switch the machine off another music teacher caught a few bars of "Get Up and Boogie" and narrowed her eyes. "You can't imagine what a torture it is when they play that stuff in restaurants. You see, if you're a musician you have to listen."

We drove on into the Blue. "Romantic piano and strings with relaxed rhythm predominating. Only the titles of the numbers were faintly ironic. 'There's a Kind of Hush', 'How Long Has This Been Going On?' and 'Music Speaks Louder than Words'. I asked the professor if any of the great composers' work would stand the Green or Blue treatment. "No," he said. "I think a bad pupil of Vivaldi would be the nearest in classical terms. This is music arranged by uninterested people but beautifully engineered. It's as though a computer has written the verse inside a birthday card and cut out all the emotive words."

I packed my cassettes away and could hear some students practising jazz. There was a piano and saxophone. I wondered if they would ever try to get a holiday job in a hotel and be turned down in favour of a Micro 2 endless loop machine stuffed to the gulleys with Blue. It wasn't until I was out of the building that I noticed from the publicity material that Rediffusion's text code is SONATA. Joseph Horowitz would have liked that.

Chris Auty





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## CHICAGO

The city Martin Luther King called the most segregated in the North has a new black mayor. "The whole nation is watching," Mr Harold Washington said yesterday, "as Chicago has sent a powerful message." Indeed this urban political spectacle has attracted an international audience, made up in part of ever-watchful anti-Americans greedy for evidence of social ills, in part of America's friends, who have been at once fascinated and repelled by the overt racism and violence of the contest, yet somehow exhilarated by the vigour of municipal politics in a great city. And what a contest. Mr Washington is a lacklustre former Congressman and a tax evader whose canvassing in a local prison was greeted by one newspaper as "homecoming". His opponent's disabilities began with the fact that he is a Republican in a city where they weigh Democratic votes; Jewish in a city of Polish and Irish anti-semitism; a former patient in psychiatric hospitals; and perhaps the least disadvantage - a beard-wearer in a city where, in 1968, Mayor Richard Daley's police had only to see facial hair in order to draw their nightsticks.

The message from Mr Washington's election is mixed.

It speaks of the disarray of the machine bequeathed by Mayor Daley - thanks to Mr Washington's predecessor Mayor Jane Byrne - and the belated rise of black political organization of a type that has carried blacks into city administration across the North East of the United States, in parts of the South and in California. The election was a delayed psephological expression of the "white flight" that has made Chicago a city of residential apartheid.

Yet there are grounds for optimism that Mr Washington will be able to establish himself. He is no radical, not even a black leader in the mould of the Rev Jesse Jackson: it is likely there will be accommodation with the remnants of the Daley machine, for it knew only one motto and that was "power". The recent tenure of the mayoralty in Los Angeles is instructive here. Tom Bradley, a mediocre performer in some regard, constructed a useful alliance with city business leaders which on the evidence of the forthcoming Olympic Games has served the city well.

For American politics at large the message from Chicago has two parts. One is that the election presages no rise of black political influence in Washington, D.C. - the reverse. As blacks

lose their place as the premier racial minority in the numerical sense in the United States to the Hispanics so their political leverage in the federal government declines: the black caucus in Congress is in decline. Blacks in Washington still have some veto power but during an administration indifferent to their political aspirations (witness the President's misguided attempt to roll back the Voting Rights Act) and their economic plight (black unemployment remains stubbornly some nine percentage points above that for white males) they make scant positive contribution to policy-making. Even a Democratic president as liberal as Mr Walter Mondale might be as unlikely to listen to black political lobbyists with undivided attention: other vocal minorities now press themselves into the Democratic Party's coalition.

Yet Mr Washington's election shows clearly the vital role of black political organization at local level: in some of the black city wards he received 94 per cent of the vote which has been boosted by active registration campaigns. Black voting registrations could, by the time of next year's presidential primaries, be at an all-time high - a fact for both parties to weigh.

## WHEN JUSTICE MISCARRIES

No country's system of trial is proof against error, and none is free of the occasional miscarriage of justice. The English adversarial system with its reliance on what happens in court on the day of trial, is perhaps more prone to achieving an incorrect result than the continental inquisitorial approach, in which far more investigation is done before the case reaches court. In logic, it is as much of an injustice that a guilty defendant goes free than that an innocent man is convicted, but we are struck more deeply by the consequences of unjust conviction especially when it leads to imprisonment.

The English trial system is weighted in favour of the accused. It insists on an extremely high standard of proof before there can be a conviction, and there are a number of evidential safeguards within the trial procedure. Yet mistakes happen, whether because of human failing or perversity, or poor advocacy, or mere accident. So an appeal procedure allows victims of alleged injustice to test the verdict against them. Sometimes, there is even a second tier of appeal.

Even so, injustices slip through uncorrected, and they

are sometimes appalling. Men have spent months, sometimes many years in prison because someone wrongly identified them, or a key witness was not called at the trial, or an apparently truthful witness is subsequently found to be corrupt, or just because the jury believed the wrong person. Occasionally, the efforts of the organization *Justice* or of individual writers like Mr Ludovic Kennedy, or campaigns in newspapers, draw attention to miscarriages and, with luck, they are remedied. *Justice* believes, however, from its experience, that there are some 200 to 300 relatively serious miscarriages of justice a year. Only a small proportion of them are righted.

Last November, the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee proposed a safety net, an independent review body which would have the power to consider, and if necessary investigate, those cases that fell short of convincing the Home Secretary to grant a pardon, and did not provide new evidence of the kind that would persuade the Court of Appeal to entertain a new appeal, but were nevertheless felt to contain some indication that injustice might have occurred.

The Government has now rejected that proposal, but in terms which demonstrate acceptance of the possible extent of the problem and a willingness to try to close the gap through which the unfortunate victims fall. The Government's solution is couched in the language of intent, rather than action: "The Home Secretary will in future be prepared to exercise his power of reference (to the Court of Appeal) more readily" and the Lord Chief Justice "sees room for the court to be more ready to exercise its own powers to receive evidence, or order a retrial".

The Government is right to prefer that miscarriages of justice be corrected through a judicial, rather than an extra-judicial process. It is too optimistic, however, to believe that all miscarriages will be removed by the Home Secretary and the Court of Appeal each showing more flexibility. Some cases are not susceptible of treatment by court proceedings. The Government allows the possibility of calling in experienced lawyers to conduct one-man investigations in particularly complex cases. That device may well be needed more often than the Government implies.

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF GRIEF

The pilgrimage to the Falklands by those bereaved was dignified and moving. Though the experience itself must have been heartrending, the families clearly felt the need to go. Nobody would begrudge them their journey to the South Atlantic or the generosity of British Airways and Cunard in providing them with a free passage.

Yet, a faint sense of injustice has been stimulated. Widows of the war in Ulster might feel slightly put out. The conflict in which their husbands perished has been protracted and largely inglorious in the sense that the mainland British public would prefer to forget about it, even though it has still to be won. A wider element of grievance exists, however. There are more than 64,000 British war widows. No breakdown is available, conflict by conflict, though the bulk of them lost husbands in World War II (figures for bereaved parents are unknown). Only those who suffered their loss after 1967 have enjoyed the right to free travel to an overseas grave, provided the visit was paid within two years of burial.

Lady Jeger was justified in

tabling a question in the House of Lords on Tuesday asking the Government to consider helping those widowed long ago who have never been able to pay their last respects at the graveside. What can the Government be expected to do in response? It is not clear how great the demand would be if retrospective facilities were offered to all 64,000, plus one companion if the post-1967 formula was followed. If even a majority took up such an offer the cost would be considerable. Thousands died in hundreds of theatres between 1939 and 1945 in a global not a local conflict. Transporting the widows of World War II would not be a matter of packing people into jumbo jets and arranging departures to a handful of destinations.

The Government should pause for a while in the hope that a level of demand will manifest itself through the British War Widows and Associates and similar organizations. After a judgment has been reached, the Ministry of Defence might consider launching an appeal and setting up a fund - Whitehall offering, perhaps, to match pound-for-pound every private

contribution - for the benefit of pre-1967 war widows.

Disbursements could be made on an ad hoc basis depending on an applicant's financial circumstances and the complexity of travel arrangements required. It is far easier and cheaper, for example, to visit Normandy than Korea. The Government could also offer consular assistance in countries like Burma where foreign visitors are not a common phenomenon. A sympathetic British official in Rangoon, for example, could make all the difference to a World War II widow on what could be a bewildering and emotional occasion.

Sometimes a poetic cliché is apt to describe a circumstance. There genuinely is many a corner of a foreign field that is forever England, from the Imjin River in Korea, through the Asian jungles to the heights above the Dardanelles and the rolling countryside of northern France and Belgium. If at all possible, the bereaved should be able to visit those corners, however great the lapse of time since their loss. They have a claim on our compassion, our gratitude and our purse.

## Road to church unity

From the Earl of Lauderdale  
Sir, Canon Alan Wilkinson (April 9) touches some sore spots, notably the unacknowledged and unconscious forces at work to retard Christian unity. In Scotland some of us have been pegging away at this.

Alongside the medieval parish kirk of St Mary's, Haddington, East Lothian, stands my private chapel, long derelict and long known as the Lauderdale Aisle. In parallel with a decision by the Kirk Session to restore the choir and transepts of this church - in ruins and open to the sky since 1550 - and to do so as an eccumenical venture, an ancient pilgrimage point was restored too.

This used to be an "Aisle of the Blessed Virgin and Three Kings", which stood in the north

transept and was still being endowed as late as 1595, some 35 years after the Scottish Reformation. It has since been renamed as the Shrine of Our Lady of Haddington - the Lauderdale Aisle - and has been made available for the use of all Churches of Scotland ministers celebrate their Holy Communion there regularly. Anglicans offer their Easter Mass from time to time.

There is a major pilgrimage on the second Saturday of May each year (May 14, 1983) with public transport from St Andrews Square, Edinburgh. Up to 1,000 people gather from all over central and southern Scotland and northern England. The parish minister plays host and conducts a pilgrim's progress of prayer, around the church. An Anglican bishop presides at the Eucharist with Church of Scotland

ministers joining in the administration. The Auxiliary Bishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh Archdiocese offers Holy Mass in the Roman rite. There is a special blessing and communion of the disabled and sick. Some pilgrims attest to striking "favours".

It is all organized by a group of four Churches of Scotland ministers, three Anglicans and two Roman Catholic priests with a few lay people. There is a special Marian prayer - in the form of a Memorial of the Incarnation - compiled by the parish minister which we regularly use together. Among us there has grown a deep unity of love, even if full unity of faith and order still eludes us.

Yours etc,  
LAUDERDALE,  
House of Lords,  
April 10.

## Citizen's advice a growth industry

From Mr Jonathan Davies

Sir, It is dismaying to read of the Minister of Consumer Affairs' actions against the Citizen's Advice Bureau (report, April 11).

The bureau which I attend once a week for a legal session is run by three people, who work harder, see more people, solve more problems in a day than most solicitors would ever attempt to do.

The staff's range of knowledge is quite extraordinary; their filing and information system is second to none; and their patience with small niggling problems is monumental.

In the area where this bureau works it is the only growth industry and for a large proportion of poor people the bureau is the only ally or intermediary between them and a rigid and indifferent bureaucracy.

It is extraordinary to read of a minister, who has no doubt run his own advice clinic in the past, attacking such an efficient and valuable organization - and then justifying the attack with remarks of the faintestness that you quote.

Yours sincerely,  
JONATHAN DAVIES,  
4 Paper Buildings,  
Temple, EC4,  
April 11.

## Labour's arms policy

From Mr David Green

Sir, Michael Meacher's passion for hiding reality behind statistics (April 7) does not seem to have diminished since we both lost the Oldham, West by-election in 1968.

All governments so far have failed to lead this country to the extra performance necessary to sustain its living standards. Labour and Conservative alike have fought inflation by murdering demand, rather than regenerating supply. The only difference between the last Labour Administration, and the present Tory one is that Labour tried to ransom its political reputation by surrendering on the wages front. It created the 22 per cent inflation which the present Government has since bought off - temporarily - with grotesque interest rates, consequential over-valuation of the currency and destruction of jobs.

Underneath, nothing has changed. Nothing will change so long as brute force is the Tory solution, ignorance the Labour one.

Of the ignorant, those who advocate withdrawal from the EEC, upon which most of our remaining jobs depend and those who imagine that our independent nuclear deterrent has any bearing whatever on the world scene, must rank high.

Of course, with that intellectual flexibility without which membership of the Labour Party is now impossible, Michael Meacher only takes you to task for criticising Labour's unilateralism on the cruise missile. Presumably he is not so sanguine about the rest of his policy. Certainly our tiny land area and dense population mean virtual annihilation under nuclear attack.

Only nuclear disarmament plus total neutrality might remove us from the destruction list - and then only if we were disposed to give free entry to any Power threatening nuclear attack if it was refused. The probability of someone trying to enslave us if undefended, however, is considerably greater than the probability of someone trying to destroy us if defended. It's the probabilities that matter.

I'm sure that if Michael Meacher and his colleagues had told the ancestors of my bees that there was no point in them having a sting because using it would kill them (which is true) I wouldn't have any bees if they had accepted his advice. As it is their species has survived on earth for around 200 million years. But then perhaps Michael Meacher doesn't keep bees either.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GREEN,  
Rhyd yr Harding,  
Castle Morris,  
Nr Haverfordwest,  
Dyfed,  
April 7.

## Post-coital pill

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, It is perfectly reasonable to refuse, as John Finnis does (April 5) to distinguish between the union of human gametes to create a zygote and an implanted embryo. To answer Ian Kennedy's question (April 11), to whom does the test-tube baby belong, someone free from lawyers' obsession with property might answer, "God".

There is at present no law about unknown conceptions because they are an undefined category with regard to intent. Abortion law deals with decisions about conceptions, known by implantation, and although "pregnancy" may have a useful legal narrowness, doctors invariably refer to the "products of conception" when removing the material of miscarriage.

Whether the zygote comes to full life status only by natural (or artificial) nurture is not a scientific but a moral issue, although the present Government inquiry will doubtless recommend legal answers to whether there should be restriction of freedom to eliminate zygotes and what is the change in value between zygote and embryo. To be more precarious, which is certainly the condition of the former, is not to be less alive.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY ALMENT,  
Winston House,  
Boughton,  
Northampton,  
April 11.

The sentence in Mr Ian Kennedy's letter of April 11 reading "And for an abortion the law requires a pregnancy, not contraception" should have read "And for an abortion the law requires a pregnancy not conception".

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Third World aid not all one way

From Professor A. I. Clunies Ross

Sir, Readers of the article by Professors Bauer and Yamey in *The Times* of April 11 should remember that official "aid", which the writers regard as blighting him that gives and him that takes, is simply a transfer to Third World governments of claims to resources. Studies such as one by Peter Haller (in the *American Economic Review*, June, 1975) seem to confirm what we might reasonably expect that, given extra resources through aid, countries tend to expand across the range of types of spending, both private and public.

The activities of Third World governments are not confined to erecting monuments and persecuting minorities but extend to health and training, to agricultural extension and credit, to irrigation and roads and bridges. Whether the effect of aid is good or not depends on whether the government is responsible in setting priorities and efficient in observing them. There are weak and irresponsible governments, but there is no universal rule of profligacy and depravity. Gifts and bonanzas may be wasted; they may distort priorities; they may corrupt; but they may also add to the capacity of the recipients to secure more of those useful things which in some degree most governments do provide.

If extra resources passing to governments in the form of aid are as pernicious in their effects as Professors Bauer and Yamey believe, then it must surely be bad too for a Third World country to find that it possesses a large mineral deposit. Botswana would be lucky, if like Lesotho, it had no diamonds. Bangladesh is blessed because, unlike Indonesia, it has no oil.

The unwary reader of Professors Bauer and Yamey might suppose that donors exercise no control over the uses of their aid. This is very far from the case. Intergovernmental organizations virtually always, and governments often, give their aid for agreed projects. It is true that, apart from the IMF, they do not normally make their aid conditional on the pursuit of certain general economic policies. The combined mismanagement of the world economy by the

major Western Powers since 1973 suggests that this may not be entirely a matter for regret.

Professors Bauer and Yamey rightly dispose of some spurious arguments for aid. It would be good if they were to use their considerable experience to help in distinguishing what works from what does not, in elucidating what donor and recipient might do to ensure that aid is useful. Instead they join in the business of creating stereotypes, stereotypes moreover that can only bolster meanness and insularity.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY CLUNIES ROSS,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Strathclyde,  
Curran Building,  
100 Cathedral Street,  
Glasgow,  
April 12.

From Sir Colin Campbell

Sir, The contribution of Professors Bauer and Yamey is timely, but seeks to push the pendulum too far.

While we should eschew the obligation argument, it must be good business for us to do everything we can to help the Third World countries to help themselves, as well as good morality.

The distinguished professors have made no reference to the need for establishing a mechanism for improving commodity prices. This remains an important and urgent priority.

The professors are right to draw attention to the dangers of aid buoying up incompetent and improvident regimes. The giving of development aid should be dependent on the receiving countries conducting their affairs with reasonable efficiency and so far as possible without corruption.

Above all, we should cease giving aid to the "self-inflicted wound" countries where imprudent fiscal and economic policies stifle the development which, given the reform of mistaken policies, they are capable of achieving on their own.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN CAMPBELL,  
Kilbride Castle,  
Dunblane,  
Perthshire,  
April 12.

## Christians and Jews

From Mr Richard S. Harvey

Sir, Your recent article, "Jesus was a Jew" (April 2) and letters have helpfully clarified some areas of misunderstanding between Christians, Jews and others. May I, as one who endeavours to stand within both Jewish and Christian traditions, add some comments from an often neglected perspective.

Jewish Christians, or "Messianic Jews", compose that small but significant and growing minority that throughout history has maintained loyalty to Jewish birth and identity whilst being of firm Christian convictions about the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

Those fellow-Jews who did tolerate and follow Jesus (*pace* C. F. D. Moule, April 7) eventually found themselves out on a limb between the larger groups of non-Christian Jews and non-Jewish Christians. So, today they are caught in the interface between Jewish and Christian establishments. They experience both the latest antisemitism within the Church and Christian theology, and the rejection of the Jewish community for publicly declaring their belief that the Messiah has come.

Jewish Christians have often been regarded as traitors with less than sincere motives for "conversion" (a word that should primarily express spiritual rather than societal change) by the majority of Jewish people and as something of an embarrassment to the Christian Church. Unless, of course, one attains recognition as bishop, cardinal or prime minister!

Nevertheless the option of belief that Jesus's alleged messianic claims were historically vindicated by his

rising from the dead on the first Easter morning has always been available to all. Whilst not the traditional Jewish position, and now under question from sections of the Christian Church, faith in God's revelation in Jesus must surely be either the main source of disagreement upon which the mistakes of history have been compounded, or the means of true reconciliation and mutual understanding.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD S. HARVEY,  
7 The Chestnuts,  
Walton-on-Thames,  
Surrey,  
April 7.

## Victims of war

From Mrs Felicity Little

Sir, I was interested to read the letters from A. G. W. Wakefield and Mrs C. Kirk (April 12). Ironically, the day the Falklands' relatives landed to pay their visit, my family dedicated a memorial stone in my father's birthplace in England. It is in memory of both my parents. They were killed at sea at the fall of Singapore in 1942 (as far as we know) after staying faithfully at their posts, after years of loyal service to their country.

Is the Government now saying that we shall all be allowed to cast our wreaths where our loved ones fell in war in the future?

Yours faithfully,  
FELICITY LITTLE,  
The Malhouse,  
Telford Magna,  
Salisbury,  
Wiltshire,  
April 12.

## Ships and men

From Mr George J. Bonwick

Sir, Mr J. Newman (April 7) of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, misquotes shipping minister, Mr Iain Sprouat. He did not say "UK crew manning levels are as much as 25 per cent and more higher than those of European competitors" but that they were "in fact too many cases", and he was quite correct.

Apart from a number of "share ships", i.e. small ships whose small crews share the gross freight with owners rather than receive wages, British crews are certainly larger than most others - in some cases one-third larger, the only exceptions being state-owned or state-subsidised ships or those manned by low-cost personnel from South-east Asia.

Mr Newman knows perfectly well that in recent months some UK owners have transferred tonnage to reputable foreign registries because

they are permitted to carry fewer personnel. The newest Panamax bulk carrier, i.e. one capable of carrying about 70,000 tons of cargo, for instance, registered in the UK carries 26, an identical ship also manned and managed in the UK but registered in Bermuda only 20 and many comparable Scandinavian and European ships fewer still.

I believe the shipping minister has acted wisely and with courage. However, I do not share his belief that "the decline of the British Merchant Navy can be halted and can be reversed." On the contrary, I am sure that for some time yet the fleet will continue to decline and, because of the paucity of new buildings, to age. Reversal of the trend is well over the horizon.

Yours truly,  
G. J. BONWICK,  
17 Chestnut Avenue,  
Wokingham,  
Berkshire,  
April 7.

## Wages at BP

From Mr R. W. Adam

Sir, Your issue today (April 7) headlined "BP worldwide wage bill up by a quarter" referred to "employees of British Petroleum ... pushing up last year's wages bill by nearly 25 per cent". The article notes our comment that a significant part of the apparent large increase in the overseas wage bill was attributable to exchange rates movements.

In terms of the currencies in which wages were paid by the group's main employing companies, the increase in the wages bill between 1981 and 1982 was, in round figures, 6 per cent in the United Kingdom, and 7 per cent in Germany and France. In the case of our US affiliate, Sohio, whose wages bill represents 45 per cent of the group's, any comparison is distorted by the acquisition of Kennecott in the middle of 1981. Kennecott itself

had more employees than Sohio and the additional half-year's wages for those in 1982 as compared with 1981 invalidates any comparison. This factor alone makes the headlined statement of an increase of a quarter in BP's worldwide wage bill misleading.

Companies are repeatedly being urged to make greater disclosure. In fact we were under no legal obligation this year to give the global figures which led to the report in *The Times* and, indeed, most international companies have not done so. In the circumstances, it seems unfortunate that as a result of BP's being so forthcoming, the instant headline and the contents of the report should have given such a misleading comparison.

Yours faithfully,  
R. W. ADAM, Deputy Chairman,  
British Petroleum Co Ltd,  
Britannic House,  
Moore Lane, EC2,  
April 7.

## Education and achievement

From Mr A. A. Barton

Sir, Though your editorial, "Filling the school void" (April 12) is welcome as drawing attention to a neglected area of public responsibility, it is disappointing to find it marked by the same muddleheadedness which has bedevilled the politics of both parties towards education.

If "education" is something which is offered to children, *qua* children, surely it is obvious that it cannot be primarily concerned with "achievement" if this means achieving a competence in abstract thought only accessible to those who excel their peer group.

"What list of all the ills confronting Britain in 1965 could possibly have included the grammar schools?" Well, that compiled by those concerned with the fate of 11-year-olds with an IQ of 110 or thereabouts who were debarré, regardless of their tastes, ambitions and commitment to school work, from the opportunity of being taught science by specialists, by the operations of administrative convenience and chance. The cure may have turned out worse than the disease, but that was the grievance, and it was real.

The central difficulty is perhaps even more oppressive now, and it is that at least one third of the population is entered for a race it must lose and go on losing from five to 16, because the only achievement recognised is academic, and competitive, too. In the nature of the case, half the population is below average.

Professor Kennaway's letter at the bottom of the same page indicates a possibility of a different approach, where there would be room to rate various kinds of practical competence and reliability as "achievement", and without the necessity for the kind of screaming which overrides the choice of the pupil.

Given a well designed scheme of options, young people will choose sensibly from the age of about 13 if they are provided with sensible and sympathetic advice.

Yours faithfully,  
A. A. BARTON,  
17 Dunsany Road, W14,  
April 12.

## Ill effects of lead

From Dr James Bevan

Sir, Lead poisoning has become an emotive subject with good reason. As a general practitioner I, too, am concerned about the evidence of the increasing number of surveys showing that lead can reduce the intelligence of children and, presumably, adults. I am not surprised that some research, as in all scientific work, does not show statistical evidence of this reduction.

None of the enquiries have shown a statistical swing - which might reasonably have been expected if lead had no effect on intelligence - in the opposite direction. Miss Marjorie Smith and her colleagues (April 6) research shows evidence, even if not statistically significant, in favour of reduced intelligence in children with higher levels of lead.

I do not see how any practising doctor can reassure his patients about the safety of lead, at any level, even when below the present so-called "safe level" (blood lead of 25 ug/100 dl). It is possible to reduce the general hazards of lead contamination by stopping its use in petrol even though the real benefits of this may not be obvious for some years. As a public health measure it is essential, as a political step it should be easy. Surely the time has come for this decision.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES BEVAN,  
9 Hill Road,  
NW8,  
April 7.

## Cash in hand

From Mr Allan Todd

Sir, The Chief Cashier of the Bank of England must now be a happy man. After April 21, with the issue of the new coin, he will at last be able to carry out his promise to pay the bearer of a £1 note the sum of one pound.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLAN TODD,  
Sedlands,  
St George's Lees,  
Sandwich,  
Kent,  
April 11.

## Bomb in Thames

From Mr H. R. Stevens

Sir, Without wishing to detract in any way from the courage of those who handle unexploded bombs, why, once the Thames bomb had been placed in a barge (report, April 12) was it not gently covered with marine collision matting (or sandbags or the like) and towed out of the centre of London?

If such action had been taken immediately the bomb could have been out of London by dawn; and the worst damage that could have occurred would have been a sunk or damaged barge.

The whole affair appears to be a massive and costly overreaction.

Yours etc,  
H. R. STEVENS,  
Brock Cottage,  
34 Compton Way,  
Moor Park,  
Farnham,  
Surrey,  
April 12.

From Mr Nicholas Bennett

Sir, Where is the GLC's non-nuclear bomb free zone?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS BENNETT,  
22 Almond Grove,  
Hempstead,  
Gillingham,  
Kent,  
April 12.







## THE ARTS

Julian Mitchell's *Another Country*, for all the play's success in Britain, has struck few comparable chords in America: its author (right) tells ruefully of his struggle for recognition

## Transatlantic tribulations

New Haven, Connecticut, is to New York what Oxford is to London — far enough away to be entirely its own place, close enough for easy access, and harbouring a major university. When I first arrived, in September 1959, I took one look at the gothic buildings and thought I knew where I was. Straight out of Oxford, I gave the Americans alpha-minus for a very decent shot at the real thing.

After a week or two my confidence began to falter. Things were not what they seemed — Yale was not an imitation Oxford, it only looked like one. I began to have the giddy feeling that no appearance could be trusted. The walls looked solid enough, but I was less and less sure they would support me if I risked leaning against them. I was the same with the language. I spoke English, the Americans spoke English, but there was often a baffling lack of communication. I do not think "culture shock" had yet been invented, but I had it badly. It took me a full six months really to know where I was, and by that time I was in Los Angeles, lost again, but lost in America this time, not in a British idea of it.

Returning to New Haven in January 1983, I soon felt giddy again. This time I was there to attend rehearsals of my play *Another Country* at the Long Wharf Theatre, which is next to a large wholesale meat business, some distance from the ivied calm of Yale. It is also a long way from Shaftesbury Avenue, where the play was running at the Queen's Theatre and coming up to its first anniversary despite a drizzle of journalistic articles about the death of the West End. For reasons no one quite understood, the play seemed to have caught the imagination of the young, some of whom came to see it

dressed as the characters. We even had a few giggling groupies, and performances were coming on at Oxford and Eton.

So — though the play is set in an English public school in the 1930s, a setting not readily available to American audiences — I was once again confident as I arrived in Connecticut. The audience had been softened up, I was told, by a steady diet of British television — *Brideshead*, *Tinker Tailor, To Serve Them All My Days*. Even more important, there was already an excellent production of Simon Grey's *Quartermaine's Terms* packing them in at the Long Wharf's Second Stage. The British educational system was no longer the mystery it once was.

Still, there were problems. For the dormitory scene we needed four beds, and none sufficiently uncomfortable could be found in all America. RAF beds were imported from Britain. The director, John Tillinger, was an Old Stole. He phoned me shortly before I left to say I might have to bring corps uniforms over with me. Luckily, some were discovered in California, though the postees certainly were not regulation. Yale thought it could lend us a

cricket bat, but then could not find it, so we bought one in New York. It was not much use, really — the actor whose prop it was never grasped the basic elements of the forward defensive prod, and since there are no indoor nets in America I was unable to give him the benefit of my coaching. Another very difficult prop to find in Reagan's America, not surprisingly, was a bust of Lenin, but we had had a hard time finding one of those in Thatcher's England. Then there was the question of the accents. No one in the all-American east sounded precisely right to me but as it turned out they all sounded English to the Americans, which was what mattered.

The real difficulties arose over public school language and life. The idea of older boys being allowed to beat younger ones remained incredible to American audiences. The house system was extremely baffling, and the plethora of cups for different activities caused much confusion. As for the difference between house and school prefects — that remained a source of utter mystery.

I did my best to Americanize the public school slang. My own inventions, such as "sunker" for

"explet", were the first to go. They were followed by such arcane references as Haig, French, Curzon, Milner, Bournemouth, Bédouins, and Darlington Hall. "Toad-in-the-hole" was allowed to stay, on the grounds that it might get a laugh, but of "bigging" the less said the better. "Prep" proved particularly hard to translate, since boarding schools are so rare in America, and "homework" is not the same thing at all. Eventually we settled weakly for "evening work". "Conking out" had to go, "white feathers" had to be explained, but to "creep down to Cromer" was kept in, and always got a laugh, either for onomatopoeia or sheer British insolence. The audience always laughed, too, at Queen Elizabeth II's troubles with her Puritans — but then perhaps some of them were their descendants.

The first preview was a disaster. (The first next to me left rapidly at the interval.) But with the help of Anglo-American friends and their children, more translation was attempted, and later audiences seemed to understand more or less what the play was about. The direction was good, the cast was good, the stage manager was the best I had ever come across anywhere —

confidence grew. New York producers prowled around. It was all up to the New York Times.

The power of the NYT over the American theatre is not quite credible to Englishmen who visit occasionally. Yet the theatre critic, by whom one lives or dies, himself counts for very little if he leaves the paper his influence wanes. Partly it is the cowardice of producers who have not fought strongly enough against one paper's power. But, whatever the reasons, a bad notice from the NYT often means that producers do not bother to return your calls. Whereas in Britain we hate all critics, more or less impartially, theatre people in America tend to reserve most of their venom for the NYT man: his impending visit gives everyone the most appalling nerves and the wait for the review to appear is interminable (no overnight reviews for New Haven).

Unfortunately this overwhelmingly important man had almost seen my play in London and not liked it. The suspense was terrible. Walking across New Haven's famous Green — a large open space dominated by a row of three splendid

churches — I came across what looked like a man reading the *New York Times*. On closer inspection, he was a sculpture, and he was reading the Arts Pages. Not far away was another extremely lifelike sculpture, this time of a man with an umbrella hailing a cab. This second sculpture was called "Does this mean it's over? Excuse me — Taxi!" To me it was obvious that the second man was a producer who a moment before was sitting next to the first man, reading the review of my play. It had not been kind. He would not be returning our calls next morning.

The sculptures proved all too prophetic. The man from the NYT disliked the play at even greater length than he had in London, and added insult to injury by saying how much better the American production was. I was in Newport, Rhode Island, when I read the death sentence, and spent the day glowering at the summer palaces of the very rich. Passing the gate of Klaus von Bulow, I thought how typically anti-social of the rich it was only to attempt their murders against their nearest and dearest, when there were so many people crying out to be bumped off all over New York.

Plays have lives of their own, however, long after reviews and loathing of reviewers are forgotten. The Long Wharf production has twice almost reached New York in spite of the NYT. We hope to start shooting the film in July. When I heard of the second near-miss I was in Wengen, consulting with the film director in pouring rain. The New York production was all on and off in a day. No one can say the American theatre is not exciting. But I am giving my play the full six months I needed myself to adapt to transatlantic conditions.

## Television Romantic chill

The polar regions have always been a source of romance for those who have never visited them, and Shackleton (BBC 2) will be a great success with armchair explorers. It began as no doubt it means to go on, with various scared and burlesqued visages looming out of the Antarctic mists like transplanted Yeti. The ice cracks with the sound of thunder, and impedes the Discovery with a force "stronger than human resolution".

But, since this is drama rather than documentary, "human resolution" becomes the theme as soon as we revert to warm and dry land. In last night's episode (the first of four) Scott and Shackleton fight over their rights to the South Pole as if the whole continent were a stamping ground designed solely for the benefit of ambitious British explorers. Perhaps they wanted to play polo on it.

Scott (Neil Stacy) is portrayed as a calculating careerist who has no objection to distorting the truth in order to enshrine himself as a hero; and if, as someone says, these men carry a piece of Antarctica in their hearts, in Scott's case it seems wholly to have replaced that less than vital organ. Shackleton (David Schofield), or "Shackles" as he is known to the lower decks, is in contrast an engaging and volatile figure for whom the challenge and the adventure are more important than any rewards.

Christopher Rallings's script, however, reverts at crucial moments to the tone of "derring do" films of the Forties and Fifties — no doubt in deference to the avianism involved in reconstructing British heroes of this kind. There were so many stiff upper lips that one hardly noticed anything else, even if the cold cracked them from time to time.

The obvious analogy, of course, is between the polar expeditions of the early twentieth century and the contemporary exploits of Russian or American astronauts — within a year or two, we will be watching Glenn if not Gagarin. Despite the occasional longer, though, Mr Rallings has managed to concentrate, or simplify, historical events so that they form a sufficiently dramatic pattern. And of course the landscape helps: at the end of last night's episode the great ice barrier loomed like a dream of death.

Peter Ackroyd

The composer Alexander Zemlinsky, supporter (and brother-in-law) of Schoenberg, remains one of the strange 'unknowns' of twentieth-century music. But in Germany, at least, there are strong signs of revival.

Stephen Pettitt reports

## Natural heir to a great musical tradition

Lithograph of Zemlinsky by Emil Orlik



This summer the Hamburg Staatsoper bring to Edinburgh the two one-act operas by Alexander Zemlinsky, *Eine Florentinische Tragödie* and *Der Zwerg*. In the company's home city Zemlinsky's last complete opera, *Der Kreidekreis*, finished in 1932, is in repertory; and at the same time a production of the much earlier *Eine Florentinische Tragödie*, written in 1916, can be found further south, in Hannover's imposing Niedersächsische Staatstheater. These events, together with the availability of the string quartets and a few other works on record, are signs that a Zemlinsky revival in Germany is in full swing. On the evidence of one's ears, it is long overdue.

How have we managed to overlook such extraordinary music for so long? Partly it must be because the serialism cultivated by the three "New Viennese" giants has commanded the attention of commentators. Though just as Viennese and as new, Zemlinsky did not follow their fashion. Indeed he followed no fashion at all, although as a keen promoter of particularly the music of Schoenberg (who married Zemlinsky's sister Mathilde in 1901) he actively stimulated contemporary trends. Nevertheless he was a natural heir to the Austro-German musical line. In his student days he came under the direct influence of Brahms, and a little later that of Mahler, who supported his cause and conducted the first performance of his second opera, *Es war einmal*, in Vienna in 1900.

His own prowess was readily acknowledged by Schoenberg, Webern (both of whom he taught) and Berg, who famously quotes from Zemlinsky's *Lyric Symphony* in his own *Lyric Suite*. But the natural pastures for his expression were those in which Richard Strauss, after *Salome* and *Elektra*, felt so uncomfortable, the fields of tonality at its breaking-point. Although the surface style of much of his music, and certainly *Der Kreidekreis*, varies wildly, underneath lies a consistent and strong personality. One might expect as much from a composer forced to make his living, like Mahler, from conducting, and from a few obliged to endure the trauma of emigration to America, where in 1942 he died. This was a move which also took away his creative will.

*Der Kreidekreis* is probably the most eclectic of all Zemlinsky's works. It has ostensibly an oriental setting, *à la Turandot*.

It is sometimes sleazy, like Weill's *Threepenny Opera* (Zemlinsky conducted the premiere of *Mahagonny* in Berlin in the early 1930s). And in *Haitang*, the nominal heroine, are to be found many elements of the character of Lulu (Zemlinsky was to decline an invitation to complete Berg's opera). But most significantly the opera continually raises moral and social questions. Although *Haitang* and *Pao*, who has earlier more or less raped his bride-to-be, become Emperor and Empress, he clearly represents something tyrannical, while all the way through she is mercilessly exploited. Even if we are to imagine the couple living happily ever after we are obliged to remember the price, that of humanity itself, that has been paid.

Herbert Wernicke's production for Hamburg updates the original setting to the Germany of the 1930s, apart from what looked like a touch of Habitat in the Venetian blinds and paper lampshades. The latter of course were intended to reflect the symbol of the chalk circle, and rather naïvely in one scene so does a large round goldfish bowl (populated) and the full moon without. There is also a large metal ring (normally an ellipse) fixed around the proscenium and studded with light-bulbs. Within the circle itself Pao exercises a sort of wisdom of Solomon in order to determine who, *Haitang* or *Yu-Pei*, is the real mother of a boy-child — his own, as it proves to be. This in turn decides which of the two is the murderer of *Yu-Pei*'s husband, Ma, an odious character who buys *Haitang* in Tong's "teahouse" but later reforms before he receives his rather rough justice. The circle is seen as a symbol of a bond which includes the concepts of both entrapment and inevitable consequence.

The singing was heard with miraculous clarity through Zemlinsky's lavish but careful scoring. Beatrice Niehoff and Werner Götz as *Haitang* and *Pao* portrayed their parts respectively with helplessness and fearsome authority, although the use of microphones as they ascended the steps to their thrones at the end was a rather ugly climax to the evening. Frau Tschang, *Haitang*'s mother, was imbued with rich pathos through the powerful contrasts of Olive Friedrichs, while the roles of Tong (Peter Hagen), Ma (Gudrun Schabitz), *Yu-Pei* (Celestine Casaperta) and the corrupt judge Tschu-Tschu (Ernst-Theo

Richter) were all positively and aptly characterized. Russell Smythe, as Tschang-Ling, *Haitang*'s revolutionary brother, was rendered mute by a cold, and so Richard Salter gamely tackled the part from the pit whilst the former mimed. The conductor, Adam Fischer, paced the drama well, almost making sense of the decision to play the three acts without a break, while the Philharmonische Staatsorchester rose magnificently to the demands of a score in which at one moment the music is as dry as Stravinsky, the next as luscious as early Schoenberg. English audiences ought to be given the chance to hear it.

Meanwhile in Hannover the resident company are revealing another, more traditionally-based, side of Zemlinsky. *Eine Florentinische Tragödie*, which like *Der Zwerg* is taken from a short story by Oscar Wilde, is an unequivocal mix of Strauss and Mahler. Although the plot is simple it deals in complexities, principally with the neuroses of Simone, who discovers his wife in a clinch with his best friend. Zemlinsky's manner here is to submit his characters mercilessly to the most harrowing of human circumstances. Once more the woman, like Lulu, is the innocent victim, and she spends most of the opera looking on powerlessly as her husband proceeds inexorably to the murder of her lover. As torrid as *Salome*, yet with touches of *Ein Heldenleben* too, the work's psychology is like that of a Mahler symphony. It represents a crisis of what could be a single identity.

Heinz-Jürgen Demitz, as Simone, coped outstandingly well with the tortuous demands of his ever-changing role, sustaining a formidable momentum towards the denouement. Hans-Dieter Bader as Guido Bardi, the intruding yet genuinely enamoured Prince of Florence, showed occasional insecurity in his intonation; but the steadily increasing irrelevance of his aristocratic position, and the revelation of prince as man as the opera progressed, was utterly convincing. As the unfortunate Bianca, Renate Behle artfully elicited our sympathy. Hans-Peter Lehmann's production was effectively straightforward and authentically Florentine in appearance, and even if the Hannover orchestra could not quite match their Hamburg rivals, Robert Maxym's conducting put everything in its proper place, both musically and dramatically.

## The Rivals Olivier

Bath in 1775: the Royal Crescent is six years old. Pulteney Bridge (glimpsed down one of the vistas of John Gutter's set) is just finished and the hill that will eventually bear Lansdown Crescent is still virgin territory. A self-contained world of gossip, concerts and duels, people discussing and deciding other people's lives, and the unending pursuit of pleasure and Mr Gutter's mobile classical terrace-fronts in black and white, regrouping in infinite combinations of square, row and circus, carry us back into it more completely than any staging I can remember.

His third bravura design in succession (after *Guy and Dolls* and *Lorenzaccio*) for the Olivier Theatre, it makes light of this vast stage's notorious difficulties, apparently by perceiving the completing half of a circle in its gigantic, forestage and then finding its prototype in Bath's architecture. And Peter Wood's production, though it has a breathless feeling and with time to think would shed the little air it retains of a chocolate-berry H. M. Tennant revival, has a breadth and completeness which Mr Gutter's design suits perfectly. It also has an agreeable toughness which shows how much Sheridan's wit looks not backwards to Congreve but forwards to the robust humour of Boucicault, Dickens and Gilbert.

The Absolutes father and son, in the persons of Michael Horden and Patrick Ryecart (and was it the gifted Mr Gainsborough who did that

## Antony and Cleopatra The Pit

From the outset, this is undoubtedly Helen Mirren's evening. She has captured the infinite variety of Cleopatra's moods and achieves the quicksilver changeability that has eluded other actresses. In midnight she slides from laughter to anger to playfulness with not a hint of a gear change. The many facets add up to a complete person, lighthearted yet with depths of feeling, devious and straightforwardly courageous. It is a tremendous achievement.

Adrian Noble's production, transferred from the Other Place, allows an unimpeded view of the action. He has stripped away the trappings, leaving a bare black stage on two levels. Nadine Baylis's costumes provide the contrast between East and West. Cleopatra wears extravagant gold and her hand-

## The Rivals

maidens are in multicoloured silk. The Romans are functional and austere, with robes like uniforms. The renegade Antony wears red leather jerkin and trousers, covered when we first see him by a glittering Egyptian cloak.

Thus the play moves unimpeded by scene-changes in a swift continuous whole, another scene beginning as soon as the previous scene fades, as in a film. Changes of mood are stressed by Leo Leibovitch's lighting that focuses at times on one character, leaving the rest of the stage in darkness.

Against this blackness, the acting is starkly exposed. I was less than happy with Michael Gambon's Antony, whose arrogance and bluster skated over the emotions; his despair at the end was emphatic but unconvincing. More involved was the realization of Bob Peck's Enobarbus of the depths of his betrayal of Antony. The old soldier's pragmatism is overtaken by the gut feeling that nothing but death can exonerate deserting a friend.

## Concert

the ecstatic nothingnesses that Mathilde Wesendonck was penning for her adored Richard. Mr. Weller compounded the excess. The final postlude seemed as if it was never going to end, and elsewhere the RPO's deficiencies in tone and aggressiveness were unfortunately magnified by the slow motion. The only escape from this came in the fourth song, with its thrashing Ring themes, here made unpleasantly military. Dame Janet was obliged to put her chin in the air and adopt the posture and vocal style of an old-fashioned Valkyrie, which at least gave her a persona to screen off the suffering commitment.

Sometimes it can be advisable to leave well alone, as Mr. Weller demonstrated in a curiously come-day-go-day per-

## Theatre Agreeable toughness in Sheridan's wit



Tim Curry: truly inspired casting

portrait of them half-hidden in the passage?), arrive in a society that Sheridan, who had eloped from it with an heiress only a few years previously, knew too well: a marriage-market where youthful enterprise mines away unseen beneath parental plans. Sir Michael gives us the comic *tour de force* you would hope for — "plaguy gruff", says Jack, and that seems a mild description for this martyr to the gown, with whom only someone of Mr Ryecart's wit and spirit could manage to deal.

He may melt into ecstasies over the charms of his future daughter-in-law, and in the process of a fruit breakfast too, this furnishing Mr Wood with a characteristic visual image which echoes the orange trees

and pineapples that fertilize some of Mrs Malaprop's imagery. But the way he whacks a chair to make his son sit in it speaks for a whole childhood of what he describes as "Jack, do this — if he demurred, I knocked him down".

Advised to clap the unwisely loving Lydia under lock and key, Mrs Malaprop ominously characterizes the suitor Beverly as "an ensign whom nobody knows anything of", and Sheridan, who knew what a blank reception from self-appointed judges of acceptability was like, must have written that with a wry smile. Geraldine McEwan plays Malaprop as a still-attractive *femme savante*, her verbal pretension fatally undermined by a feminine

The opposing qualities of Rome and Egypt are brought out in the lesser roles. The protective attitude of Cleopatra's maids towards the unhappy Enuch, who is all too aware in the sensual atmosphere of what he has missed, and the Enuch in turn comforting Cleopatra when she hears of Antony's marriage, all reflect a pervading female influence. Octavius's court is staunchly masculine, emotions expressed in backslapping friendship, and release gained through orgasmic drinking parties, where, in the heat of the moment, Antony and Pompeius (Clive Wood) fall into an almost homosexual clinch.

The two conflicting sides of male and female finally meet in Octavius's defeat of Egypt. If Antony's death leaves one unmoved, Cleopatra's last scenes are strongly affecting. Helen Mirren has finally made that leap from the eye-catching early promise to being an actress of considerable depth.

Paul Griffiths

vagueness about detail, who has acknowledged the first approach of middle age by going into mauve satin and amethysts, and a fashionable headress whose feather seems just as likely to take flight as her own uncontrollable verbal fancy.

This defines the text (Acres's cry of "Ods wrinkles!" gives the game away) but it is stimulating, suggesting a comic ancestry for the character, not in Restoration comedy's grotesque old women, but its affected ladies like Melantha in *Marriage-à-la-Mode*, learning new words (French in her case) every day before breakfast. It is also unanswerably funny: Miss McEwan's crisp bass cuts deliciously through the lines and it soon becomes an anticipated pleasure to watch her collecting her fine features into a Joshua Reynolds composite before uttering another thundering soliloquy.

Other happy surprises include Niall Buggy as Sir Lucius O'Trigger and (truly inspired casting) an explosion from Clod Hall in the shape of Tim Curry's Acres, a glorious comic creation straight out of Gillray. Beside all these great professionals the Lydia and Julia still manage brilliant debuts: Anne Louise Lambert is too maturely lovely for the 17-year-old Miss Languish, thriving on a diet of library novels, but she is an expert comedienne whose bespectacled interrogation "Did you inquire for *The Delicate Distress*?" would send most maids reeling back a pace. Fiona Shaw, fresh from RADA, breasts her way through the eloquent protestations of Julia's role with the desperate good breeding of Elizabeth Spriggs trying to play Penelope Keith trying to play Margaret Thatcher. And as her lover Faulkland, whose neurotic doubts make him a great comic and tragic character, Edward Fetherbridge's severely Scottish gentleman makes a seldom-explored corner of the play shine with life.

Anthony Masters

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## SUMMER IN BRITAIN NUMBER

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Gillian Newsum describes the months of preparation for this major equestrian event.

Leeds Castle in Colour  
The French Classical decorative style at Leeds Castle, Kent is examined by John Cornforth.

Restoring the Landscape  
Michael Wright looks at the conservation work of the National Trust in North Yorkshire.

The Architecture of Sark  
Charles Lane is fully rewarded in his search for architectural beauty on Sark.

Sailing for the Disabled  
Colin Mudie investigates the facilities for handicapped enthusiasts.

What Future for English Cricket? A new season preview by Colin Cowdrey.

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## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 687.1 down 0.6  
FT 100 Index 224 down 0.25  
FT All Share 433.02 down 0.64  
Bargains: 23,274  
Tring Hall USM Index 170.5 down 0.2  
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Average 8480.44 up 11.81  
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index 1057.30 up 4.90  
New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1150.74 up 5.42

## CURRENCIES

**LONDON CLOSE**  
Sterling \$1.5365 down 50pts  
DM \$2.8 up 0.8  
DM \$7.500  
FF 11.2225  
Yen 366.50  
Dollar  
Index 122.4 up 0.3  
DM 2.4375 up 140pts  
Gold  
\$429.50 down \$2.75  
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Sterling \$1.5360

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3 month interbank 10% for 10%  
**Euro-currency rates**  
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3 month DM 5% 1/4%  
3 month 13% 1/4%  
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## TODAY

Interim Dowling and Mills, MP Kent, Wm Low, Martonair, New Central Wiltshire and areas, Peters Stores, St Grp. Finalists: Anglo American, Ash and Lacy, Associated British Ports, Beauford, Benford Concrete Machinery, Cass Rpt, General Investors and Trustees, Green's Economiser, TG Harrison, Hestair, House Property Company of London, Lec Refrigeration, London Brick, Martin Albert, Morgan Crucible, Newarthill, Austin Reed, RTZ, Taylor Woodrow, Ucl Ceramic Distributors.  
**Economic statistics:** UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid March), London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid March).

## Maxwell ready to bid for Cope

Mr Robert Maxwell is said to be ready to bid 70p for Cope Almas International, which would top the Dowable consortium's 60p bid by 10p. A 70p offer would value Cope at £27.7m.

The bid would come through Hollis Bros & ESA, which holds more than 7 per cent of Cope's shares and is 85 per cent owned by Pergamon Press. Mr Maxwell's private company, Last night Mr Michael Doherty, Cope's chief executive, said the board had been approached last Friday by Mr Maxwell but no price had been discussed.

The Cope board meets on Monday and reports say it will recommend an offer from Mr Maxwell. But Mr Doherty said it remained Cope's aim to stay independent and it was not looking for a white knight.

**£1m TAKEOVER:** Lex Service Group, which is best known as a car and commercial distributors, yesterday strengthened its presence in the electronic component distribution business with the £15.3m acquisition of Jermyn Holdings, an unquoted British holding company. The takeover was funded by placing 6.6 million Lex shares on the stock market at 231p each.

**UDS CIRCULAR:** Directors of UDS, which recommended the lower Basistash bid against the higher one from Hanson Trust say they weighed the prospects of employment against price in reaching their decision. Their duties under the 1980 Companies Act are outlined in a circular to shareholders. The two dissenting directors who preferred the higher Hanson bid will put out a circular today explaining their reasons.

The Dow  
passes  
record by  
5 points

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks held their early gain yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose about 5 points at 1150 - solidly over the record closing high of 1145.90 set on March 24.

Advancing issues led declines by nearly a two-to-one margin and trade continued heavy.

**International Business Machines** was 107 1/2 up 1/2; **General Motors** 60 up 1/2; **General Electric** 107 1/2, off 1/2; **American Telephone and Telegraph** 64 1/2 up 1/2; **International Paper** 53 1/2 up 1/2; **Eastman Kodak** 81 up 1/2; **Exxon** 32 1/2 up 1/2; **Minnesota Mining** 77 1/2 unchanged; **Atlantic Richfield** 44 up 1/2; **Merck** 83 1/2 up 1/2.

**Motorola** was up 1 1/2 to 107 1/2; **Teletype** up 2 1/2 to 148 1/2; **Fleet** was down 1 1/2 to 24 1/2; **Whitpool** up 1 1/2 to 51 1/2; **General Mills** down 1/2 to 34 1/2; **Lockheed** down 1/2 to 106 1/2; **General Dynamics** up 1/2 to 44 1/2.

Mr William Lefevre, analyst at Purcell Graham, said: "Despite all the fears about a sputtering in the economy the recovery is for real, it's healthy and looking even better than the Administration has been forecasting."

MPs seek  
JBE 'sale'  
statement

By a Correspondent  
Glasgow

Sir John Mayhew-Sanders, the chairman of John Brown, is to be asked by two Scottish Labour MPs today to make a public statement on the future of the company's turbine division, John Brown Engineering, after extensive rumours that it is to be sold off.

Mr Hugh McCartney, Dumfriesshire Central, and Mr Andrew McMahon, (Glasgow, Govan), say they have information that suggests John Brown's board is considering selling off JBE for around £50m to off set projected overall losses for the company of around £9m this year. John Brown's total debts are estimated at around £40m.

Mr McCartney said yesterday: "There is something happening, but it's happening at the highest level. I have spoken to Mr Graham Strachan, the managing director of JBE. He knows there is something going on, but he's as much in the dark as I am". Mr McMahon said: "It's not fair to the workforce who are very much aware of this situation. The company must make a statement either way."

Hawker Siddeley, GEC and Northern Engineering Industries have all been named as being interested in JBE. Although Hawker Siddeley has confirmed it is "looking at" JBE, it declined to comment whether it would be making an offer, as did GEC.

Best placed to acquire JBE is Northern Industries, whose profits rose last year from £33m to £39.5m. But Mr Duncan McDonald, chairman, said: "We have had no contact whatsoever with John Brown."

JBE made a trading profit last year of £5m and is expected to be in the black again this year. This month it clinched a £8.5m turbine order, its 14th from the Soviet Union.

Mayhew-Sanders: facing questions by MPs

OECD says France may fall behind in upturn  
Cost of Mitterrand experiment

France, which hoped to show the world how socialist policies could usher in a prosperous new economic order, is in danger of being left behind by international recovery, according to the latest survey on the French economy by the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development yesterday.

The OECD economists deliver a grim verdict on the first two years of President Mitterrand's experiment. Rapid inflation and a yawning balance of payments deficit have forced on the government a more restrictive economic course which will inhibit growth and increase unemployment, the OECD says. These disappointing results have arisen partly from more depressed world activity than expected but also from domestic mismanagement, according to the survey.

The outlook for the French

After more than a week of holding the line on interest rates against City pressure for a reduction, the Bank of England yesterday trimmed its key money market dealing rates by up to 1/2 percentage point.

This is a clear signal to the banks that a base rate cut is now in order, and it is likely to be reinforced by a further trimming of dealing rates today if the banks do not move first.

The authorities have been anxious to temper what they regard as the market's over-enthusiastic rush to lower rates as sterling bounced back once fears of an oil price collapse receded.

They believe that rates may not be able to fall much further

without putting sterling under pressure in a still-volatile market, and without jeopardizing monetary control.

The message to the markets has thus been to "cool it". But the acceptance by British National Oil Corporation's customers of the latest price cut and Tuesday's call by Mr Paul Volcker, Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve, for lower American interest rates has encouraged Whitehall

to give the go-ahead for a modest interest rate reduction.

The pound slipped half a cent against a stronger dollar yesterday to \$1.5365, but rose against other leading currencies such as the Deutsche mark.

Its trade-weighted index gained 0.8 to 82.8, its highest level for nearly three months. A half-point cut in bank base rates has already been more or less discounted by the foreign exchange markets.

Interest rate optimism failed to cheer the gilt market. The new medium term stock was, as expected, undersubscribed with only a third to a half of the £1,000m on offer being taken up.

Gilt prices fell on unease over the latest government borrowing figures.

These showed central government borrowing in 1982-83 of £12,581m compared with a

Budget estimate only a month ago of £11,257m.

Estimates for borrowing at the end of the financial year are notoriously unreliable because government departments and local authorities tend to bunch spending in the final month to soak up any spare cash.

But the rush to spend last month has caught the Government by surprise, with central government alone paying out about £1,300m more in March than expected on goods and services.

As a result, public sector borrowing in 1982-83 is likely to be £1,000m or so higher than the £7,500m forecast in the Budget. And last month's spree, which has almost eliminated the expected shortfall on departmental spending, casts doubt on this year's public borrowing forecast of £8,000m.

The 1983-84 forecast builds in a £1,600m allowance for shortfall. But if departments are becoming cleverer at spending right up to their permitted cash limits this may now not materialize, especially since rising inflation later this year is likely to put a squeeze on programmes.

The government cannot afford to do this, for political reasons, but an economic argument can be made as well. The Saudis are presumably taking the view that oil prices and demand will pick up next year. Higher world economic growth forecasts support the case.

But it is far from clear how the Saudis propose to fund their deficit.

Saudi Arabia has no domestic capital market worthy of the name, so the deficit will presumably be financed either by external borrowing, or drawing on foreign reserves, or both.

But \$10,000m is a fair proportion of the kingdom's external assets of about \$160,000m, and withdrawal of that amount could cause some concern among banks and security markets.

It is likely, therefore, that this year we shall witness the extraordinary sight of Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, borrowing on international markets.

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King Fahd told the nation yesterday that spending in the fiscal year which starts tomorrow would be \$76,400m (\$49,600m), up 8 per cent from the outturn for last year, against revenues of \$66,000m.

Only two years ago the kingdom was prudently balancing its budget and running a huge balance of payments surplus on current account. Clearly, a crucial decision has been made at the highest political level not to reduce the growth rate.

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Public borrowing may be £1,000m over Budget forecasts

Bank of England signals go-ahead  
for half-point cut in base rates

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England yesterday gave the green light to the clearing banks to lower their base lending rates, and a cut from 10% to 10 per cent is expected today.

But new official figures suggest that public borrowing in the 1982-83 financial year may have been £1,000m higher than forecast in the Budget, reinforcing the widely held view that the Government's borrowing target for 1983-84 is over-optimistic.

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## MPs criticize 'unclear' fiscal policy

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Government was criticised yesterday for failing to clarify its interest and exchange rate policies.

The Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee said in a report on the Budget that three essential conditions would need to be met if the Chancellor's limited recovery was to be achieved.

Interest rates, perhaps the single most important brake on investment expenditure, would need to continue on their declining trend; immediate domestic and international action would be needed to meet

any further deterioration in international lending; and it would be necessary to maintain the improved competitive position which had resulted from recent falls in the exchange rate.

The all-party committee agreed that the Treasury had failed to spell out any coherent policy on interest rates and exchange rate movements. Mr Edward de Caux, Conservative chairman of the committee, said: "It is very important that people know what government policies are. Here is an unknown area; the House of Commons ought to know."

The report contrasted exchange rate movements with the Budget, saying: "It cannot be emphasized too frequently that the level of sterling has a major impact on this economy and the movements we have witnessed, both upward and downward, since the Government entered office, have far more important implications for economic activity than a £1,000m or £2,000m fiscal adjustment."

"The potential benefit to industry from each 1 per cent fall in the currency is worth up to £1,000m, provided costs can be controlled."

Standard Telephones and Cables, the electricals group headed by Sir Kenneth Corfield, plans to set up a new operating division in September to sell STC's expertise in research, new product development and factory automation systems.

The new division, STC Technology, will have an annual turnover of £60m a year and nearly 2,000 employees. It will include Standard Telephone Laboratories, a new product development unit at Harlow, Essex, and a factory automation systems and machine tools operating unit at Fooks Cray, in Kent.

ITT IDEC, which STC formally takes over from its former parent company, ITT, this month, will also be included in the division. IDEC employs 330 people at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and is a

communications and computer software consultancy.

About 20 per cent of STC Technology's business is with companies outside the STC group at present. However, Sir Kenneth believes that the company could double that amount once the company is launched. "This would have a corresponding effect on the numbers employed", he said.

Sir Kenneth said the decision to establish the new division would turn STC's research and development work into a profit maker for the group.

Sir Kenneth said that the only factor which could delay setting up the new company in September is a problem in recruiting a chief executive. "We are looking for someone now", he said.

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More talks  
called at  
Harrods

By Jeremy Warner

There was a new development yesterday in the row between the main House of Fraser board and Lomro, the company's largest shareholder, on whether Harrods, the Knightsbridge store, should be split from the rest of the group.

House of Fraser has refused a request by Lomro representatives on its board that a separate motion calling for a demerger of Harrods be put to a shareholders' meeting on May 6.

Lomro, has requisitioned a separate meeting to consider its proposal. Fraser directors declined to say whether this would be held in tandem with the meeting called to pass their own resolution expressing confidence in the board and backing its view that Harrods should remain in the group.

A document to explain this view was dispatched to Fraser shareholders last night.

Mr Glen Reafrew, managing director of Reuters, said: "The 1982 results confirm the promise of 1981. Exchange rate movements helped us a little, but most of the improvement in the figures was solidly based on excellent sales and effective cost control. We continued to cope well with the competition."

Reuters' profits have soared from £3.9m in 1980 and another big rise in profits is expected in the current year.

At the half-way stage Pearl's net profits were down by nearly a tenth. But the property account in Britain, which was badly hit by weather claims in the first half, broke even on underwriting in the second.

Motor claims were also down in the second half, helped by the absence of 1981's special £1.6m transfer to strengthen the claims reserve. For the whole of last year, the underwriting loss showed a small improvement.

The stock market welcomed both the results and the 24 per cent increase in the final dividend to 18p net.

But unlike Freemans and Grattan the experience in the second half was much better than expected and Mr John Gratwick, the chairman, is bullish about the current year even though there could still be a small first-half loss.

The City had expected much worse figures after Grattan's poor results last week and scaled the expected loss up to £2.5m from £2m. But the second half profit of £838,000 unexpectedly offset the first half loss of £2m.

Like the other two mail order companies which have recently reported their figures, Empire Stores (Bradford) took a hammering in 1982-83 as recession hit its customers' spending power.

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**Demand for home loans is growing and property prices are moving upward. The societies have switched the focus from lending back to savings as they compete for funds from investors.**

The overwhelming problem now confronting building societies is the perennial one of where to find the funds to meet mortgage demand, a complete turnaround from the situation 12 months ago when some societies were having difficulties finding borrowers.

This three last year building societies were being forced to abolish mortgage rate differentials, introduced 100 per cent loans and generally relax lending policy in a bid to hang on to their borrowing customers as the banks made vast inroads into their lending territory.

In the three months ending August 18, 1982 the banks lent £1,375m compared with the societies' total of £4,115m for the three months to the end of July. But by the end of the year bank lending was down to about £200m a month and the societies are now once again

bearing the full brunt of demand for home loans - a demand stimulated beyond the normal spring upturn by the banks' erstwhile policy of lending whatever the customer asked for (provided he could meet repayments) to virtually anyone who walked in off the street. The banks' early claim that they were in the mortgage market "long term" has a somewhat hollow ring about it today.

The focus has now switched away from lending back to savings with the societies competing with each other for funds in an attempt to meet commitments to borrowers now running at more than £1,600m a month.

"Societies were forced to

draw on their liquid assets in February to maintain their current high level of lending activity" said Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association recently.

"Even so some societies are reporting that they are finding it difficult to meet mortgage demand and are being forced to impose some restrictions".

Societies' liquidity which stood at nearly 21 per cent at the end of 1982 is down to about 18 per cent and continues to decline. "Since last summer societies have increased their monthly level of net advances from some £700m to about £840m. On the other hand the London clearing banks have reduced their lending over the same period from £350m a

month to £140m. Such marked changes in the banks' commitment to housing finance is bound to have a serious effect on the mortgage market" said Mr Weir.

Providing the funds for lending at these levels continues to be the societies' major preoccupation. Many new products and services have been introduced ranging from the much publicized Cheque Save account at Abbey National to commission-free travellers cheques at Leeds Permanent and discount cards from Leicester Building Society.

What is worrying is that in spite of the fact that National Savings, the societies' biggest competitor, is keeping a fairly low profile, net receipts are

running at under £400m a month while £700m is needed to meet demand for loans.

The societies hope to attract new customers and deposits with the introduction of ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) which give the account holder access to cash 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Halifax is launching more than 100 cash dispenser machines starting in June and hopes to have them installed in one in five of its 557 branches by the middle of 1984.

And the societies have been quick off the mark at investigating the possibility of a common ATM network throughout the building society industry. A study group chaired by Peter Lumb of Leeds Permanent has completed the first stage of its

investigations and has concluded that a common ATM network is desirable. Stage two is now in progress and the group is looking at how the network should be established, whether it should be linked to the banks' systems, how much it might cost and formulae for charging societies which take part.

One of the major conclusions of the study group was that building societies ought to take much greater part in the Committee of London Clearing Banks' discussions on ATMs. They are concerned that they should not be excluded from the banks' plans for a new national network for electronic cash transmission - a system for linking retailers' tills directly to the banks' computers, allowing

instant debiting of customers' accounts. "We have made no formal decision on it but our general reaction must be that we would be opposed to a monopoly that would make us into second class citizens", said Mr Weir. The Office of Fair Trading is keeping a close eye on the banks' activities.

Though the installation of ATMs will undoubtedly enhance the societies' attractiveness, it might require some fundamental changes if the societies are to be able to meet mortgage demand in the coming years.

The Spalding Report set out a number of reforms that the societies would like to see contained in any legislation. But curiously it made no comment on reforming the societies' tax treatment. If the composite rate were abolished and societies were free to pay interest without deduction of tax if requested, this would probably do more than any other single charge to round up new customers and more funds.

The societies could retain the current system of deducting basic rate tax at source but non-taxpayers would be free to claim it from the Inland Revenue. The composite rate now stands at 25.25 per cent reflecting the long-term reduction in the real value of tax thresholds and the fact that more building society investors than ever before are liable to tax. To abolish the composite rate would cut some 0.5 per cent off the societies' operating margins which would have to be recouped by widening the spread between mortgage rate and investment rate.

A major feature of progress over the past decade has been the speed with which mergers have reduced the number of societies. In 1971 there were 467 societies but by 1982 the

number had been halved to 227 with 26 disappearing in 1982 alone. During this period the societies' assets have grown from £12,919m to today's figure of over £74,000m. The figures look good but they hide the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the societies to finance their lending.

In 1971 the ratio of investors to borrowers was just under three to one. It now takes six savers to finance each borrower and there is no sign of the trend being reversed.

Over the same period house prices have risen by roughly two-and-a-half times and the number of building society members has risen to 20 million which indicates that a very substantial proportion of the adult population now has a building society account.

There are those both within the industry and outside who question whether it is possible to finance house purchase into the 1980s purely from personal sector savings and it is increasingly likely that societies will be turning to the money markets for a growing proportion of their funds.

The danger is that with the BSA interest rate agreement now virtually defunct, societies will bid up the price of money by competing amongst themselves rather than finding new sources of funds. Though this would undoubtedly benefit the investor, it would not necessarily produce more funds for house purchase. What we are likely to see is demand for mortgages being choked off by price - a situation which will hit the first-time buyer hardest. The societies will need all the skill and imagination they can muster if they are to continue to meet mortgage demand in the coming years.

Lorna Bourke

#### COMPETITION

### Streamlining services in the High Street

The item likely to provoke the most heated debate at next month's annual general meeting of the Building Societies Association is not the far reaching implications of an industrywide automated teller machine network; nor is it the difficulties the societies will undoubtedly face in meeting mortgage demand over the coming year. What will really set the feathers flying is the proposal to reduce the number of seats on the association's council from 35 to 27, a change which will inevitably mean fewer seats for the smaller societies - and they aren't going to let them go without a fuss.

All of which demonstrates that despite big efforts - and in many instances, very successful efforts - to drag building societies into the twentieth century, there is still a long way to go. One building society council member, commenting on the radical proposals for reform put forward in the Spalding Report, was heard to say that there were still too many people on the BSA council who couldn't run a bicycle shop, let alone the finance houses, banks, property and insurance companies which the Spalding Report sought freedom to set up.

The BSA document, *The Future Constitution and Powers of Building Societies*, colloquially known as the Spalding Report, is a masterpiece of diplomacy, looking innocuous enough, sounding moderate and soothing even to those opposed to change. But its implications could revolutionize the provision of financial services in the High Street and make building societies the most powerful financial institutions in the country. Steering it through the various stages to eventual legislation is going to need every ounce of skill the societies can summon.

Predictably opposition has been most vocal from the professions - solicitors, estate agents and surveyors - least used to competition. The report recommends that societies should be able to act as agents on the sale and purchase of property, to do structural surveys "in-house" for buyers and to carry out conveyancing work for prospective borrowers.

All of this aims to streamline house buying, and provided the alternatives of outside independent professional help remain available, it can only be in the best interest of homebuyers. The recommendation that societies should be able to lend for purposes other than pure house purchase is sensible. Why should housebuyers, particularly those buying for the first time, be unable to borrow legal fees, stamp duty, or funds to cover furnishings and other costs?

At the moment they have to go up the road to the banks and pay a higher rate of interest out of already stretched resources. The societies would like to remedy this.

But it is the societies' desire to stretch their wings and take off over other territory that is alarming some. The Spalding Report recommends that societies should be free to establish, acquire or invest in a bank, insurance company, finance house or property company - either by itself, or jointly with other societies.

The societies suggest that investment in such institutions should be limited to one-third of the excess by which reserves

exceed statutory minimum requirements - but with the important proviso that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies could use his discretion to waive this limit. A building society industry bank or insurance bank or insurance company could produce overwhelming competition to existing banks and insurance companies if it were efficiently run. What alarms the critics - and many of them are within the industry - is that the societies do not have the expertise to run such institutions and that in so doing, they would lose what some see as their major advantages, their image as friendly societies, becoming nothing more than just another high street commercial concern.

At a lunch at the BSA on the day the Spalding Report was published, the question was asked - "Why do the societies need new legislation?" No very satisfactory reply was given except that they would quite like to have greater freedom. And while much is made of the competition between the banks and the building societies, the real competition is between the societies themselves. The banks' foray into building society fields offering home loans to all-comers died a very rapid death and they are unable to compete for investors because of their high overheads.

The societies point out that most of their current activities are circumscribed by the requirements of the 1962 Building Societies Act and while their assets in 1960 stood at just over £3,000m, today they control more than £74,000m, with more than 20 million members.

Anyone who sat through this year's AGM of Nationwide Building Society listening to five hours of tedious nit-picking by members attempting to exercise their democratic rights would acknowledge that some reforms are necessary.

The societies tacitly acknowledge that there is little to be done about this situation - at least at present. To limit members' rights at a time when they are trying to exercise them for the first time in 20 years would be a bad political move.

Reaction from the banks and insurance companies to the possibility of direct competition from the building societies has been remarkably restrained. "So long as they are forced to compete on similar terms, we don't mind", is the common response. Bankers privately suspect that the societies would make a hash of any attempts to move in on their territory and are content to stand back and let them make a mess of it.

What most concern delegates at next month's BSA conference as they sit listening to the debates on what is the right number of seats on the BSA council and who should occupy them, is that the bankers may be right.

The current generation of building society chief executives are all reaching retirement age - five stepped down last year and many more are due to go soon. While there are undoubtedly bright executives within the building society movement, the truth is that they are rather thin on the ground. Where are the managers who will lead the societies forward to take advantage of the brave new world envisaged in the Spalding Report?

L.B.

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## BUILDING SOCIETIES

investors have been saving less money, but demands for loans are increasing. Reconciling the two sides of the market has caused strains for the building societies and fierce fighting for deposits with the banks.

The result for the investor has been more attractive savings for those who are prepared to shop around. It has also resulted in some new marketing ploys by banks and building societies to attract young savers then hold them as they become wage-earners and house-owners.

The building societies have been weighed down under the increased mortgage applications as the banks have withdrawn from the major expansionary drive, leaving raised expectations among borrowers. While the London clearing banks have cut back their lending from £350m a month to £140m from last summer, the building societies stepped up net advances from around £700m to £840m over the period. Societies have therefore been drawing on their liquid assets. So they want to attract new funds, and to keep their existing savers. If pressure becomes too severe, they will be forced to put up the mortgage rate to enable the savings rate to rise to competitive levels - as the Prime Minister is only too aware.

There are estimated to be 20 million adults investing in building societies, and between them they have nearly 34 million accounts. Savers, not as loyal as they used to be, have become more interest-rate conscious, although many account users are merely seeking a change-free, interest-bearing method of separating their various funds and resources.

The building societies and banks are not the only influence on interest rates in the money market, of course, which makes it more difficult for them to price their products. Inflationary expectations can push up rates in the markets where they have to fight for the billions of pounds of money or government securities in which they deal.

Government demand for money is also an influence on interest rates, although less of a direct competitor than it used to be because government borrowing requirements have been declining. Because of the sensi-

## INVESTMENT

## Need for new funds and savers

tivity of interest rates in an election year the government has been avoiding using interest rates to manage the level of sterling.

When pitching the borrowing and lending rates the building societies operate at a fine margin between borrowing and lending rates - around 4 per cent, of which about 1 per cent is overheads. The banks like to operate with a margin of 7 per cent. Thus the building societies have limited leeway for overhead cost increases. The banks find it difficult at times of relatively low interest rates to accommodate their overheads, which is why their mortgage business is not profitable at present. Both groups are nervous of pushing up borrowing rates at the moment, because of the political impact.

The Government is not worried for National Savings rates as the movement has been reaching its targets - set at £3,000m for the second year running - with ease. When the authorities want to step on the accelerator, they have the advantage of being able to increase funds not only via interest rates - which are usually pitched to be competitive with building society share accounts - but by increasing the holding limits on tax-free savings schemes.

The tax free element, which covers National Savings certificates, index-linked savings and SAYE, appeals especially to the larger savers. This creates problems for the building societies, which always feel the draining of capital from a National Savings push.

Despite the expressed concern about liquidity ratios, and the increasing competition, the societies have steadily increased their deposits. For the third quarter of last year, the latest figures available, the total outstanding was around £63,000m out of the personal

sector total of £135,000m. Four years ago it was £35,000m out of a total of £74,000m. The banks' share had risen from £24,000m to £50,000m.

The most evident sign of building society stress about liquidity ratios is the rates they are prepared to offer over the ordinary share account to attract deposits. It is estimated that about 70 per cent of new money going into building societies is going to premium accounts of some sort. While the size of the premiums has shaded back as interest rates have come down from their peaks, these are historically very high. Large as well as small societies are paying over the odds - in usual conditions this is confined mainly to the small societies.

Other services being offered by the building societies to attract depositors are legion - spreading to a determined incursion into traditional retail banking with the offer of a cheque book. This has some way to go before matching the banks' services, and is why the societies are so interested in participating in a national cheque clearing system.

The efforts extend to trying to inculcate the building society habit in the young. To children, they can offer a service where banks do not. The appeal of a pass-book, enabling a child to deposit or withdraw cash instantly is enormous. A current account cannot be held by a child until the age of 16.

But building societies have also been offering a soft-sell approach of giving away toys and money boxes, and using characters familiar to children in marketing.

No short-term solution seems likely to resolve the growing mortgage shortage, so savers can expect to be courted ever more assiduously.

Sally White

Buying a home is usually the largest single investment anyone makes in a lifetime, but in many cases less care is taken than when shopping around for a car or even a pair of shoes.

Over the last decade there has been a rush into home-ownership as people have been afraid of losing out during the great price surges of the 1970s. More recently single people, of both sexes, have represented the major force in the house buying market as greater affluence and a shortage of suitable rented accommodation has convinced them of the merits of owning their own house or flat.

Certainly the whole process has become less daunting and the money more freely available than probably at any other time. But just because the process has been made easier there is no reason to throw away caution when house hunting and shopping around for a mortgage.

For the first-time buyer, making the initial hesitant steps on the home ownership ladder can be the most exciting, depressing, frustrating and anxious experience encountered. And for the second and third time buyers the whole exercise is filled with danger and disaster at every turn.

It is now more than three years since the banks made their first appearance in the general mortgage arena. For a number of reasons, not least that they had more money than they knew what to do with, the banks became extremely willing to lend money for house buying.

If the banks did nothing else they simplified the whole process of obtaining a mortgage. All you had to do was pick up a telephone, chat to the mortgage manager, fill in a form and hey presto you were given a mortgage subject usually only to a valuation.

Gone were the days of grovelling and pleading with a building society manager who seemed to shake his head more often than he nodded. And very quickly the banks had grabbed a 30 per cent slice of all new mortgage business.

Unfortunately the banks' enthusiasm for mortgage lending seems to have evaporated somewhat and most of them impose restrictions of one kind or another. Today a buyer is back on the streets juggling between his bank and building society to see who will give him a mortgage.

While building societies have been lending record amounts, the present boom in the market has imposed restrictions which may well lead to a mortgage famine. Certainly reports from some estate agents indicate that queues are starting to form in some parts of the country, and brokers, solicitors and insurance companies are coming back into their own.

## HOUSE BUYING

## The ups and downs of the market-place

## Costs of buying a house

- lowest, average and highest costs quoted for secondhand house, fully owner occupied, with registered freehold title

| BUYING         |                     |                |                                    |                       |           |                              |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Purchase price | Solicitor's Fee (£) | Stamp Duty (£) | Building Society valuation fee (£) | Structural survey (£) | Total (£) | Total as % of purchase price |
| £15,000        | 172                 | NIL            | 35.65                              | 80                    | 287.65    | 1.9                          |
|                | 240                 |                |                                    | 126                   | 401.65    | 2.7                          |
|                | 345                 |                |                                    | 195                   | 575.65    | 3.8                          |
| £20,000        | 218                 | NIL            | 41.40                              | 82                    | 341.40    | 1.7                          |
|                | 281                 |                |                                    | 137                   | 459.40    | 2.3                          |
|                | 370                 |                |                                    | 195                   | 606.40    | 3.0                          |
| £25,000        | 287                 | 350(1%)        | 58.35                              | 110                   | 803.35    | 3.2                          |
|                | 414                 |                |                                    | 166                   | 986.35    | 3.9                          |
|                | 505                 |                |                                    | 230                   | 1,141.35  | 4.6                          |
| £30,000        | 345                 |                |                                    | 120                   | 1,427.10  | 4.8                          |
|                | 492                 | 900(2%)        | 62.10                              | 189                   | 1,643.10  | 5.5                          |
|                | 645                 |                |                                    | 255                   | 1,872.10  | 6.2                          |
| £35,000        | 460                 | 1,200(2%)      | 70.15                              | 140                   | 1,870.15  | 5.2                          |
|                | 603                 |                |                                    | 231                   | 2,104.15  | 6.0                          |
|                | 850                 |                |                                    | 470                   | 2,590.15  | 7.4                          |

| SELLING       |                     |                        |                           |           |                             |  |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Selling Price | Solicitor's Fee (£) | Estate agent's fee (£) | Removal costs (£20 miles) | Total (£) | Total as % of selling price |  |
| £15,000       | 144                 | 224                    | 69                        | 437       | 2.9                         |  |
|               | 192                 | 311                    | 99                        | 602       | 4.0                         |  |
|               | 300                 | 512                    | 159                       | 971       | 6.5                         |  |
| £20,000       | 173                 | 224                    | 90                        | 477       | 2.4                         |  |
|               | 238                 | 384                    | 117                       | 740       | 3.7                         |  |
|               | 325                 | 588                    | 164                       | 1,107     | 5.5                         |  |
| £25,000       | 200                 | 403                    | 96                        | 699       | 2.8                         |  |
|               | 336                 | 652                    | 142                       | 1,130     | 4.5                         |  |
|               | 449                 | 857                    | 245                       | 1,551     | 6.2                         |  |
| £30,000       | 250                 | 450                    | 169                       | 789       | 2.6                         |  |
|               | 402                 | 612                    | 209                       | 1,223     | 4.1                         |  |
|               | 530                 | 808                    | 306                       | 1,644     | 5.5                         |  |
| £35,000       | 345                 | 600                    | 96                        | 1,041     | 3.0                         |  |
|               | 497                 | 1,032                  | 209                       | 1,738     | 5.0                         |  |
|               | 695                 | 1,380                  | 437                       | 2,512     | 7.2                         |  |

Sources: Woolwich Building Society.

For the first-time buyer the initial step is to establish how much a building society or bank is prepared to lend you. The rough rule of thumb guide is still between 2½ and 2½ times your annual gross salary and if you are buying with a friend or spouse then a year's income of the other person will usually be taken into account too. You must also establish what percentage of the valuation price they will lend. In these less generous days the maximum appears to have slipped from 95 per cent, or even 100 per cent in some cases, to about 85 per cent to 90 per cent.

Building societies still tend to be very conservative and are cautious about what types of property they will lend on. While they recognize that one bedroom flats and houses make useful starter homes for young single people they prefer two bedrooms because it will be easier to resell later.

Once it is established how much you can spend, the grudging and often depressing,

house hunting starts. To make life easier try to decide roughly where you want to live. If it is outside the area you know well then spend some time exploring in order to get a feel for the place, fixing in your own mind which streets or roads are better than others.

No matter how specific you are an agent will simply hand you a list of properties which more or less covers your price range. Never be afraid to look at properties which may at first appear more expensive than you can afford - prices are usually negotiable and you may be able to talk the bank or building society manager into lending more money.

If you are buying a flat then be careful of the not-so-hidden extras like service charges and rates as well as utilities. In central London service charges can range from between £15 to £30 a week depending on the block.

Viewing properties for the first time gives most people a distorted perspective of the

house or flat. Obviously with some you walk in through the front door and you want to buy it but that shouldn't prevent you from keeping your eyes open for obvious defects which will cost money to rectify.

It is advisable to employ a surveyor to examine any house or flat you intend to buy. Less than one in 10 buyers do so and it can cost them dear. Surveyors charges relate to the purchase price but an average house or flat will cost you about £150 in survey fees.

There is a certain amount of preliminary work you can do yourself. Is there a shortage of electric points in each room? If so it may indicate that the property has been rewired on the cheap and may need further work. Is there a smell of dampness from cupboards under the stairs or the cellar? Do the floorboards move under the carpet when you walk across the room? Do the walls look out of line and is the pointing crumbling away outside? Are

there slates or tiles missing from the roof?

To save yourself some money it is always worth discovering which surveyor the building society or bank is using for its valuation and ask him to undertake a full structural survey on your behalf.

A word of warning: a valuation is only that. The surveyor is basically checking that the property on which you have applied for a mortgage exists and is of the size you state on your application form. He only assesses its value at the time he visits the premises. It is not a survey and it is always advisable to instruct him to survey the property fully.

Once you have decided on the property to buy then the frustration and the expenses begin. Generally a solicitor will be needed to undertake the legal aspect of your purchase. Conveyancing charges are about 1 per cent of purchase price. This will vary a little and it is always worth contacting three or four solicitors and ask them for quotes.

Your other major expense will be stamp duty. If the property is above £25,000, this government tax is levied in bands: £25,001 to £30,000 will be 0.5 per cent of the entire price, £30,001 to £35,000 at 1 per cent, £35,001 to £40,000 at 1.5 per cent, £40,001 and above 2 per cent.

For anyone moving from a £45,000 home to a £60,000 one all these expenses add up to a considerable sum. According to statistics released by the Woolwich Building Society recently it would cost a family as much as £4,000 to make such a move although savings of up to 40 per cent could be made by not using an estate agent to sell your existing home and employing the services of a conveyancing firm to undertake the legal work.

Some vendors may feel that in a rising market as at present an auction is the only way to get the best market price for their home. If you decide on this course of action then be prepared for extra expenses such as brochures, leaflets and general advertising to ensure a good attendance at the auction. All types of property go under the auctioneer's hammer these days and prices can start as low as £25,000 depending on age, condition and location.

From a purchaser's point of view buying at auction can be a trickier affair. You must have done your homework - such as surveys and arranging the finance - before you go into the auction room and never be tempted to go over your limit. Remember when the gavel descends you are contracted to buy.

Baron Phillips  
Property Correspondent

# Nationwide in action: Handcross



Nationwide is actively supporting some self-build groups, as well as urban renewal programmes in many city centres where housing improvements are urgently needed.

Above we show a site at Handcross, Sussex, where the Society is assisting a group with the necessary skills to build their own homes.

First-time buyers also need help and nearly half Nationwide's lending goes to such applicants, many of whom are on lower than average earnings.

Nationwide is also active in providing valuable up-to-date information about the housing market in its regular quarterly bulletin "House Prices."

## It pays to decide Nationwide



House prices are on the move again. After almost two years in the doldrums there are clear signs of a more buoyant market in many parts of the country.

But the question is - how far will house prices rise this year? The straight answer is that no one really knows.

At the beginning of the year, when signs of a revival became apparent, many with experience of the property market were predicting an overall rise of 10 per cent; but already this view is being reconsidered, as certain sectors of the market show healthier than expected price gains. This is particularly true of houses and flats which appeal to first-time buyers.

A recent survey from the Nationwide Building Society showed that in the first three months of the year prices rose by 2 per cent compared with 2½ per cent in the previous quarter. These are both healthy gains made at a time of the year when the house market is traditionally slow.

Normally the big rush into house buying comes in spring. This year is unlikely to be any different, except that the bank's wagon has already started rolling; but we may see more activity in the middle - £40,000 to £80,000 - price range.

According to the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, now is the time to buy or sell a home. The society confirms that buyer interest is at its highest level for two years and it advises anyone contemplating a sale to act now.

But selling in a rising market is always difficult. Would it be better to wait to see if a definite trend emerges, or to sell while the going is good? Again, there is no easy answer.

The increase in prices, says the ISVA, is matched in some areas by such a strong demand for property, at all levels, that the antiscaling practice of "gazumping" has reappeared. For those fortunate enough not to have encountered it, it is the way in which vendors hold out for the highest price against competing buyers - a frustrating, time-consuming and money-wasting exercise.

Little can be done to prevent gazumping. Estate agents argue that they are employed to get the best price for the seller, though most despise the practice.

Against this background of rising prices it should be remembered that there are tremendous regional variations both in the amount of any increase and in the speed of sales. It should also be borne in mind that prices hardly moved during the past two years, and home owners should not get



carried away by the prospect of property values leaping ahead at a rapid rate.

A number of factors has led to this recent upward drift in prices. In the second half of 1982 interest rates tumbled from a record level of 15 per cent to around 10 per cent, inflation fell to about 5 per cent and the banks and building societies were injecting more money into the market than ever.

Perhaps the most important ingredient of all was confidence. Buyers were more confident of keeping their jobs as unemployment levels stabilised at around 3,250,000; they were more confident of not slipping further behind in their standard of living as inflation fell; and they felt more confident that lower interest rates were here to stay, for a while at least.

At the same time government housing policies were beginning to bite. Sales of council houses exceeded 500,000, less public sector housing was built and council rents rose; all had the desired effect to push more and more people into home ownership.

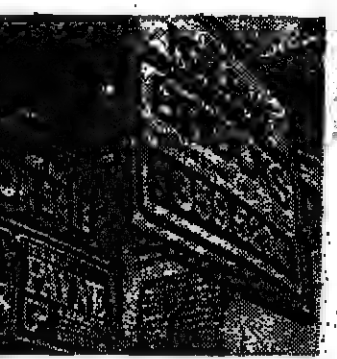
Also, private housebuilders began to drag themselves off the 1980 low point, when work started on only 96,000 homes. Even in these lean past few years sales were stimulated by the marketing activities of builders like Sir Lawrie Barratt, who offered a whole host of incentives to tempt buyers into a new home.

The greatest demand has been for first-time buyers' property and many of the large builders have switched as much as three-quarters of their production into small flats and houses. While this has mopped up much of that demand, there has been little activity among second and third time buyers.

Estate agents have been reporting huge backlogs of unsold property during the past two years. Only now are they beginning to see shortage of certain types of houses and flats, as sales start to increase.

## PRICES

## Moving again, but how far?



average increases. But even in some parts of the Midlands some prices have risen by as much as 8 per cent over the past few months.

While the South-east has generally been regarded as a pace-setter for house prices, many agents are saying that rises are only just above the national average.

The ISVA survey indicates that the western region has witnessed the strongest recovery, as the cost of buying a home has advanced by more than 12 per cent since last June.

But it must be remembered that many of these price rises are from a low base, because in autumn 1981 there was a general decline and even now costs have only just managed to regain their position of two years ago. Just because everyone is saying that there have been widespread increases, you cannot, in every case, simply add on 10 per cent to the price you paid for your home two years ago.

Although last month's Budget must be regarded as a help to home buyers, the marginal increase in the mortgage tax threshold is not going to set the residential market alight. Most people in the property industry believe the Chancellor's move will have little or no impact on prices.

If confidence can be restored to the economy and real incomes made into unemployment levels, and if fears of a mortgage famine are unfounded, then we may well see a general uplift in house prices. But with the prospects of a general election looming - and with all the uncertainty that entails - we cannot really expect a major improvement in prices for some time yet.

B. P.

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## FUNDS

## A timely change that may secure a mortgage

It always pays to keep an ace up your sleeve in any bargaining situation. Homebuyers are now switching from a straight repayment loan to the insurance-linked endowment method should refrain from making the switch if they are likely to move house soon.

Queues of up to 12 weeks are reported by all the major building societies as they struggle desperately to meet the ever-increasing demand for home loans. And if you are likely to want a mortgage soon, the offer of converting to the insurance-linked method might be the very ace which will clinch the deal and get you a loan where others seeking a repayment mortgage will be told to wait.

Even building society managers are human and the commission earned on selling you an insurance policy could be the deciding factor in giving you a loan as opposed to the next borrower.

The table shows how dramatically the situation has changed from last summer when virtually anyone could walk into a building society branch and - provided the normal lending criteria were met - obtain a loan.

Nobody really thought the Indian summer would last and when interest rates began to fall in the autumn, the banks decided that they had done enough mortgage business and pulled out, leaving the societies to cope with the inevitable shortages.

Only NatWest retains any real presence in the market, lending £20m to £100m of the High Street banks' current monthly total of £140m. NatWest has now decided that there is no point in giving money away when borrowers

are perfectly prepared to pay more, and introduced, from April 13, a 1 per cent premium on endowment linked loans - up from 10 per cent to 11 per cent.

At the building societies the situation is beginning to look grim and mutterings of the need for an increase in rates to bring in more money are beginning to overwhelm all other considerations.

"The situation is not looking very good," says Mr Parkinson, lending manager at the Halifax. "We seem to have waiting lists at the majority of branches - most have used all their April allocation and are already starting on May's".

Chains of homebuyers awaiting mortgages are developing and spring has seen the first report of gumping.

"We are lending to members very good," says Mr John Fry of Abbey National. Abbey doesn't use a queueing system but gives potential borrowers a definite date for their loan any time up to 12 weeks ahead. "We are already out to the limit," says Mr Fry. "Demand is showing no sign of slackening and I think we are in for a difficult summer".

Abbey National is asking client homebuyers to plough back into their new home any profits made on the sale of their old property.

Over at Nationwide, Mr Gordon Bentley reports queues forming rapidly. "We are getting demand from all sources - not only from ordinary members but housebuilders are suddenly feeling more confident and housing associations have become very enthusiastic". Nationwide is not cutting back on its percentage advance but borrowers are having to wait about eight weeks for a loan.

First-time buyers in the

"priority" category are going to their local authority to obtain their chit under the local authority support scheme which gives them preference in a building society mortgage queue. Last summer they weren't bothering as they were able to obtain a loan direct from a society.

Woolwich Building Society has had to limit lending to priority cases only at some branches. "The money is just not coming in," reports Mr David Blake. "Demand shows no sign of slackening and people are having to wait six to ten weeks for a loan".

Of the big five societies, Leeds Permanent is the only society not quite so sorely pressed. "I would say we are taking six to eight weeks at some branches but we try to move money around a bit from those branches where funds are not being readily taken up to branches where demand is heavy," commented Mr Jim Drake, chief lending manager at Leeds Permanent. "But there is no sign of demand dropping off".

The chances of getting a loan at one of the bigger societies if you are not a member, or have been saving only recently, are virtually non-existent. Most expect borrowers to have saved for at least six months. Smaller societies are generally more flexible but will charge above the recommended rate of 10 per cent for their money.

With home loans tight, expect to see the resurrection of that almost extinct breed, the mortgage broker. But whatever you do, don't switch to an endowment loan now, if you are likely to want a new mortgage in the next few months. You could need this as a sweetener to get your loan.

L.B.

## MORTGAGE AVAILABILITY

| Society            | Mortgage Rate<br>Repayment | Endowment | Starting<br>Point for<br>Higher<br>Rates | Waiting<br>Time | *Maximum<br>%<br>Advance               | Membership       | Advance<br>as multi<br>of salary                    |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|-----------------|--|------------------|---|
| Halifax            | 10%                        | 10.25%    | -  | 4 - 6<br>weeks  | 80%                                    | 6 - 12<br>months | 3 times<br>larger +<br>1 times<br>smaller           |
| Abbey<br>National  | 10%                        | 10.25%    | £25,000                                  | 12 weeks        | 70% (more<br>for first<br>time buyers) | 6 months         | 2½ times<br>larger +<br>1 times<br>smaller          |
| Nationwide         | 10%                        | 10.25%    | -  | 8 weeks         | normal<br>terms                        | 6 - 12<br>months | 2½ to 2¾<br>times<br>larger +<br>1 times<br>smaller |
| Leeds<br>Permanent | 10%                        | 10.25%    | -  | 6 - 8<br>weeks  | up to 95%                              | 6 months         | 2½ times<br>larger +<br>1 times<br>smaller          |
| Woolwich           | 10%                        | 10.25%    | -  | 6 - 10<br>weeks | up to 90%                              | 6 - 12<br>months | 2½ to 2¾<br>times<br>larger +<br>1 times<br>smaller |

\*all societies say that the maximum percentage advance will vary according to the borrower and the property. In all cases the situation at individual branches will vary.

## SOCIETIES

## Breaking down the traditional role

Building societies should be the most democratic of our financial institutions. They describe savers as members and invite them to attend annual general meetings. In theory members can vote in, or out, any main board director of a society and, in theory, get themselves elected.

But according to Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association: "The mechanism for ordinary members to get elected to the board of a building society is already there - the sad thing is that the vast majority of members don't seem interested in exercising their rights. There is a certain amount of apathy on the part of members".

What Mr Weir says is correct but it will cut little ice with that old campaigner Mr Paul Twyman, the civil servant economist, who has been the scourge of the Anglia Building Society since 1978. Mr Twyman campaigned against the Anglia's merger with the Hastings and Thanet Building Society, but since its takeover of the London and South England he has been invited onto the enlarged Anglia board.

Despite what the societies may say, it is rare for a "commoner" to battle his way onto the board of a leading financial institution. Most people are too afraid to take on the might of an established board which is often stuffed to the gills with many well known names from the world of industry and business.

Another member who is prepared to fight it out with his society is the Barnstaple solicitor Mr Christopher Punt. He is doing battle with the Nationwide as part of his attempt to get onto the institution's board.

Mr Twyman and Mr Punt have done their best to shatter the cosy existence of the building society movement



Mr Richard Weir: "The sad thing is that the vast majority of members don't seem interested in exercising their rights."

which, until the last five years or so, had virtually gone its own way for the past 200 years.

It is, perhaps, only since the first real house price boom of 1973-3 that the public at large began to question the role of building societies and their attitudes to lending.

A combination of soaring inflation and government legislation pushed more and more young people into the home-owning market. Gone were the days when a young couple would save for years to buy a new house when they married. Today's young wanted a home now - and they were not prepared to wait for it.

Suddenly there was a scramble to buy property - any type of property. And during the mid 1970s the societies showed their true colours: they were only in the business of lending money for the purchase of "respectable" homes in "respectable" locations. Allegations of the so-called red-lining made national news and word spread among young buyers that such and such a society would not lend on conversions and another would not touch flats above shops.

At the same time the movement itself was witnessing the biggest expansion it had ever known. Since 1976 the number of branches almost doubled to around 6,500 and its full-time

staff increased by 50 per cent to 55,773 in 1981.

The movement became a major force within financial institutions but somehow building societies were regarded as being much closer to the public than banks have ever been. And the public felt societies should be answerable to the man in the street.

Yet despite the recent intrusion by the banks into their traditional home loans business the societies remain extremely resilient and resistant to change. Despite the reforms of the building societies constitution called for in the Spalding committee report which would allow the movement greater flexibility and a wider brief, they are at heart conservative.

Flamboyant gimmicks like cheque books and credit serve only as a smokescreen and were born out of competition with the banks. Building societies are in business to lend money for house-buying which is financed by attracting investors to save with them.

In the past five years building societies have undergone greater changes than probably in the past 100 years and it seems likely a radical departure from its traditional origins will happen during the remainder of this decade.

B.P.

## HOME LOANS BATTLE

## Banks withdraw from the fray

The battle in the High Street is in a lull. The banks have withdrawn from their major foray into the mortgage market and are taking stock; for, while they have gained market share, so that by the end of this year they are expected to have 15 per cent of home loans, the banks are not making money on the business.

And so, instead of being forced to compete with banks who were prepared to lend 100 per cent of the money for house purchase, the societies now find that the banks, too, are taking a more prudent line. Rationing by percentage is again the norm.

The high level of interest rates has dulled the institutions' keenness for the fray. And the decline in the savings ratio means that the focus is now on sources of funds. But the two years or so of fierce competition have left permanent changes in the attitudes of banking and building societies, as well as with the consumer. Last year mortgages accounted for 26 per cent of bank lending.

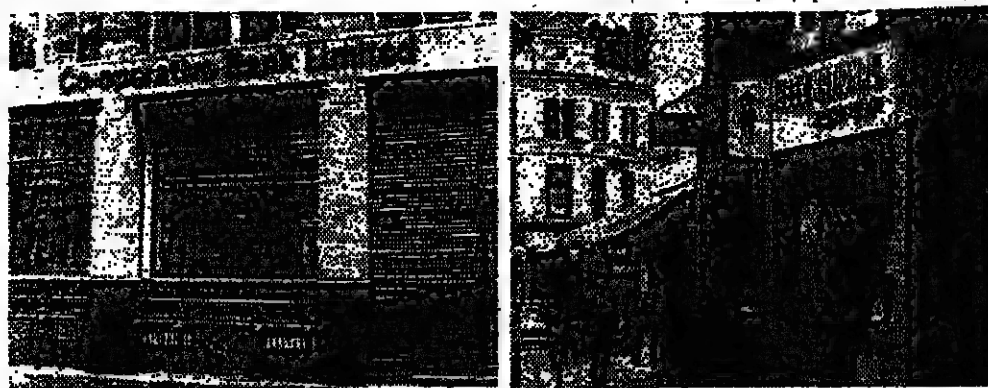
The increase in market share - it was 6 per cent in 1980 - hides the speed of growth. At one stage the banks were taking at least a third of new mortgage business.

The building societies had created the vacuum that the banks were able to fill. Because of the desire to maintain their liquidity ratios, the societies were rationing money, and a shortage probably persisted for most of the 1970s, following the house price surge of 1973-73.

Other institutions were slow to fill the gap, lagging behind those in other western countries. For example, in the United States banks supply 17 per cent of house mortgages, and in France the latest figure is 45 per cent.

One consequence of the increased availability of funds has been a rise in individuals' income gearing of about 50 per cent between 1978 and 1981. Hence, the political sensitivity about mortgage rates, even if the amount of change in the monthly payments on rises in interest rates is small.

But the extra money around



Marriage of convenience: a link between the Co-op Bank and Abbey National

## HOME LOANS 1981-1983

Mortgage advances, net of repayment £m. Percentages: after number, market share; below number, increases in outstandings

|                      | Monetary Sector   | Building Societies | Others <sup>2</sup> | Total               |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Outstanding end-1980 | 3.0 (6%)          | 42.7 (82%)         | 6.6 (12%)           | 52.3 (100%)         |
| Increase in:         |                   |                    |                     |                     |
| 1981                 | +2.7 (27%) (+90%) | +5.3 (54%) (+15%)  | +0.8 (9%) (+12%)    | +9.8 (100%) (+19%)  |
| 1982                 | +4.3 (33%) (+75%) | +7.5 (58%) (+15%)  | +1.2 (9%) (+18%)    | +13.0 (100%) (+21%) |
| 1983                 | +3.0 (21%) (+30%) | +10.0 (70%) (+18%) | +1.3 (9%) (+15%)    | +14.3 (100%) (+19%) |
| Outstanding end-1983 | 13.0 (15%)        | 66.5 (74%)         | 9.9 (11%)           | 89.4 (100%)         |

1982: estimate based on first nine months. 1983: Lloyds Bank forecast. 1 Banks and TSB. 2 Local authorities, insurance companies, etc. Sources: Financial Statistics.

is not thought likely to create a revival in housebuilding on the scale seen in the thirties, also a time of innovation in the housing finance market. At that time it was building society practice that changed because of the increased volume of saving and low interest rates.

In its review, "Mortgage lending and the housing market", last September the Bank of England Bulletin stated: "Several of the features of the thirties are lacking today. Interest rates have fallen in nominal terms, but remain high in real terms by standards of the seventies. Real incomes are not rising strongly, and building land is in rather inelastic supply. The housing stock is high in comparison to the population aged over nineteen by recent standards." So, pressure on house prices, and

demand for higher mortgage sums could result.

This year the banks' share of new mortgage business is expected to fall back to around 20 per cent. The banks were probably surprised by the speed at which they reached their targets, yet there is no danger of their leaving the market.

"Building societies are in a better position to attract deposits at a time of low interest rates, and are competing harder on the advances side. The banks will nevertheless have more than quadrupled their outstanding mortgage advances in only three years, and clearly intend to remain a major force in the market."

This is the view of Mr Christopher Johnson, Lloyds Bank's economist. But he believes that the banks' share will fluctuate with changing monetary conditions.

Both the banks and the building societies are continuing to offer new products even though the battle over mortgages has ebbed. The banks are under constant scrutiny and pressure by the Government, which can introduce the threat of taxation. At the same time, world recession and the international debt problems of developing countries are creating financial pressures. The banks are seeking both to offer services for which they can charge fees, and to attract money on which they can arbitrage a return.

Housing continues to be a centre of profit as it is the major source of capital outlay for the individual. The banks are exploring the idea of providing one-stop-shopping - from house selection through to finance for purchase of the building and for renovation and furnishing -

taking advantage of their greater flexibility on lending.

Midland has bought a 35 per cent stake in an estate agency that operates in the North and the Midlands. National Westminster has become involved with the Team Association, which markets for a chain of independent estate agents. Lloyds Bank was the first into this area, setting up Black Horse Agencies last May.

In their search for new products, the building societies and the banks are even trying tentative liaisons in the market place - a reflection of the radical thinking going on in both groups.

Last month Nottingham Building Society and the Bank of Scotland, in conjunction with British Telecom, announced a computerized home banking and shopping service. Home-link customers will be able to check their building society and bank accounts on a terminal screen, and transfer funds, pay bills and order goods with a range of suppliers as well as book holidays and order travellers' cheques from Thomas Cook.

Abbey National has a link with the Co-op Bank, which will provide a clearing service for the Abbey's Cheque-Save scheme: the lack of access to a central clearing system has greatly inhibited the building societies' entry into the cheque business.

Midland Bank and the Nationwide, and National Westminster and the National & Provincial Building Society have joined forces to issue Access credit cards to the building society's customers.

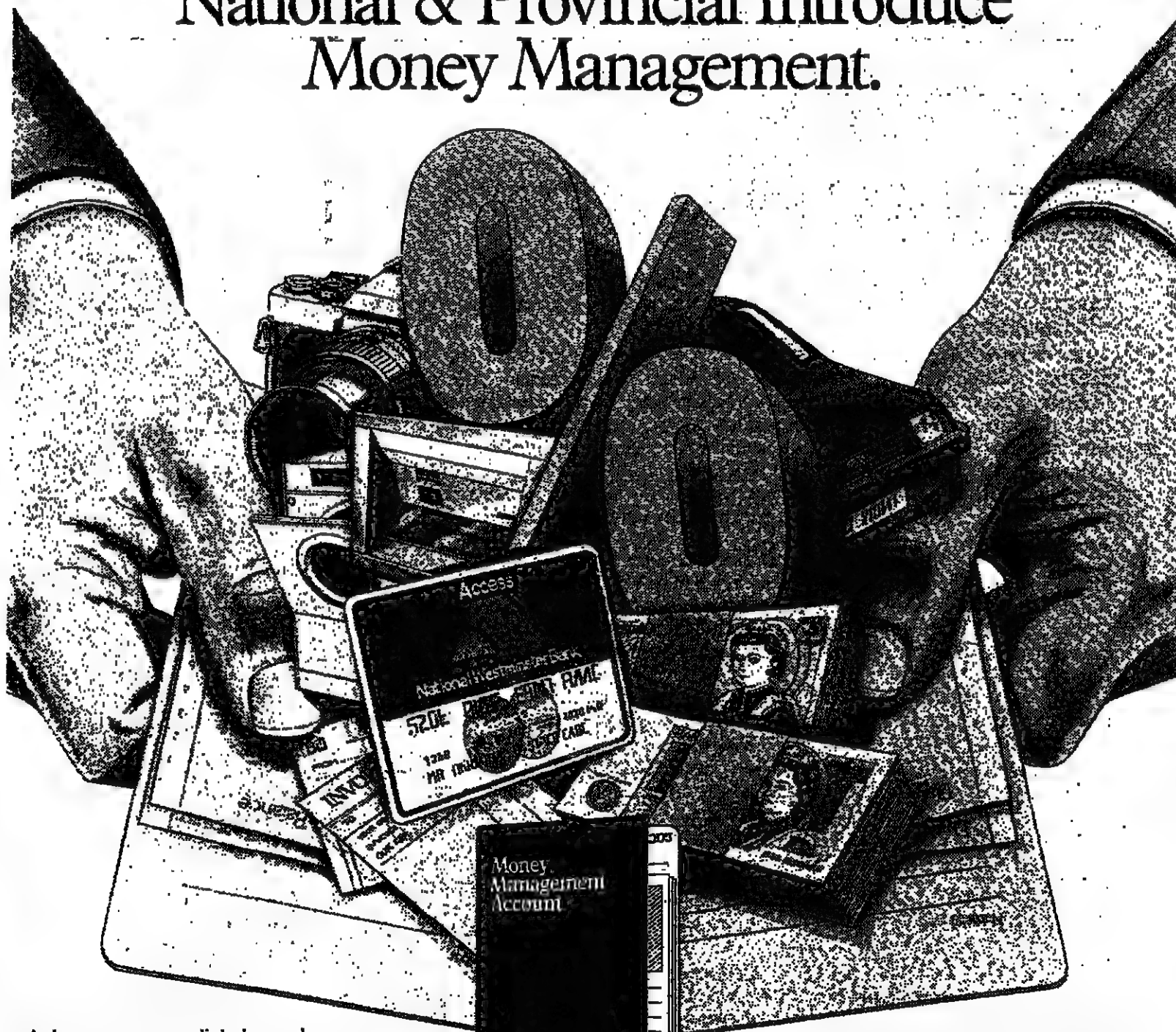
It remains to be seen how far the societies will pursue these avenues towards expansion into banking.

As to the banks, they may not be as large in the mortgage business as they seem - not all the money raised this way from bank mortgages went on housing - but they are undoubtedly here to stay. It should not be forgotten that this is not entirely a new market for them.

Sally White

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# Scottish Widows reports on '82

**NEW BUSINESS** It is pleasing to report that in 1982 the new annual premium income for ordinary business assurances and annuities, including executive pension schemes, amounted to over £14M an increase of over 15% on 1981. The main areas of improvement were unit-linked assurance and pensions contracts and endowment assurances.

**INVESTMENTS** The Society continued to invest heavily in fixed interest stocks in the early months of last year but after their strong rise we directed funds into equity markets, particularly overseas.

We invested a total of £146M during 1982 of which £30M was invested in fixed interest securities, £5M in index-linked securities, £34M in UK ordinary shares, £67M overseas and £10M in property.

The success of our long-term investment policy has recently been pinpointed in independent performance surveys, notably for unit-linked contracts and Managed Pension Funds.

**FUNDS** The ordinary long-term insurance funds, including unit-linked business and Managed Pension Fund business, now exceed £2,291M. The funds first exceeded £1,000M in 1978 and have thus more than doubled in only four years.

The total assets of the Group exceed £3,000M.

**NEW PRODUCTS** Throughout 1982 the design and planning of new products continued. Two new ordinary business contracts were introduced, the Balanced Investment Plan which is a single premium investment providing a balance between income and capital appreciation over a ten year period and the Privilege Extension Plan which allows policyholders to invest part of the proceeds of maturing policies in the Society's unit-linked investment funds on favourable terms and without loss of tax advantages.

We also revised our oldest unit-linked contract, the Investor Policy, introduced in 1966 and linked to the top performing Investor Policy Fund.

**COMMISSION** The Society stands firmly by the principle of control of the level of commission payments, preferably by industry-wide agreement.

Following the abandonment of the Commissions Agreement at the end of 1982 we have participated with several other leading offices in a new informal agreement. The main change to the pre-existing scale has been the introduction of differential commissions to registered insurance brokers and to full-time intermediaries thus recognising the greater expertise and commitment to the life market of these intermediaries and the higher costs incurred by brokers as a result of registration, a development which we feel should be encouraged.

**SURRENDER VALUES** The fall in interest rates has enabled the Society to improve its surrender values, in some cases by as much as 14%, thus illustrating our continuing intention to deal equitably with all our policyholders, including those who, for one reason or another, terminate their contracts prematurely.

**SERVICE** We are constantly aware of the need for speedy and accurate administration of all our business and the provision of adequate technical support for our agents.

New versatile Displaywriters have been installed at the Branches and a powerful additional computer has been installed at Head Office, the first of its kind to be installed anywhere in Scotland. Our continual aim is to optimise the service we provide while minimising our expenses.

The Society, along with other members of the Associated Scottish Life Offices, has become a member of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau. This development will, we hope, give our policyholders even greater confidence of achieving satisfaction in the handling of complaints.

**FUTURE OUTLOOK** Although new business may be affected by the commissions problem we intend to maintain our position among the first rank of life assurance companies. We expect to continue our expansion, particularly in the unit-linked field, while for pensions business the emphasis will continue to be on service and investment expertise for Managed Funds and Group Schemes and on the competitiveness of our executive and self-employed pension plans. We have shown over the last few years that progress can be made even in difficult times given a skilled marketing team backed up by good product design and efficient service, and we are confident that this will continue to be the case.

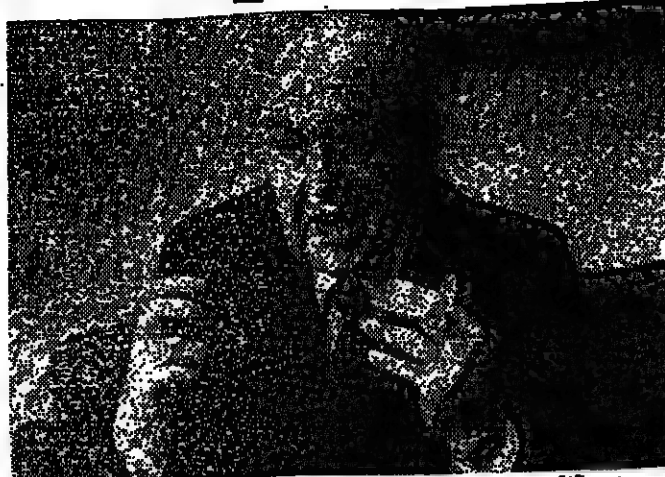


## SCOTTISH WIDOWS

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If you would like a copy of the 1982 Report and Accounts, please write to Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH16 0NE or telephone 031-655 6000.

## STC's freedom from US starts expansion drive



Corfield: man of ideas, spotter of opportunities

Thousands of new jobs could be created if businessmen were alive to the opportunities which will arise from new technology, according to Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of Standard Telephones and Cables, the electrical group.

He is convinced that Britain is on the verge of a potentially enormous turnaround if companies take advantage of the opportunities which will arise from developing and managing new technology. "The tragedy is that many businessmen do not know where to look to create the new jobs," Sir Kenneth says.

Freed from the shackles of its former American parent company, International Telephone and Telegraph, (ITT), which effectively relinquished control of STC after a share sale last autumn, Sir Kenneth is determined to make sure that STC does make the most of these opportunities. He sees his role as that of an "ideas man" and "motivator" who can spot those opportunities which can be best exploited by the STC group.

His first task was to embark on a huge restructuring of the STC group, by decentralising its operations into six main divisions. He put the final touches to the reorganization programme in September when the sixth division, STC Technology, is formally established. The new division will embrace ST Laboratories, and the group's new product development and factory automation systems businesses.

The other key groupings will centre around telecommunications, including defence; international communications; component distribution; business systems and International Aeradio, which was bought from British Airways for £60m last month.

Traditionally, STC has concentrated on developing and selling ITT technology in Britain while building up strong telecommunications and cable systems businesses of its own. However, in its centenary year STC is no longer faced with the constraints of being owned by a US parent. Now the aim is to expand rapidly as an international high technology company.

The furious pace of change envisaged by Sir Kenneth makes recent bullish profits forecasts by brokers look positively bearish. Analysts are

looking for pretax profits this year of about £90m against last year's £64.3m and £120m next year.

From what Sir Kenneth says the sky is almost the limit. STC's turnover from defence businesses alone is growing at the rate of 30 per cent a year. One contract for radiation proof optical fibres which could go to STC if a pilot study is successfully completed could be worth £300m to dwarf last year's £60m of defence sales across the group.

STC has also been quietly building its optical fibre manufacturing capacity so it is ready to take advantage of the anticipated boom in demand as Britain is recalled for the information technology revolution. "BICC talks about its new optical fibre facilities but it hasn't built them yet," Sir Kenneth says.

STC already has 25,000km of capacity and is building towards capacity of 50,000km a year even though demand is at present languishing in the region of 5,000km a year.

Sir Kenneth's lateral thinking also means that STC is now a front runner in another industry of the future, the manufacture of solid state laser systems. "We are as advanced as anybody in Europe in this field," he says.

The rapid growth generated internally will be complemented by a continuing programme of acquisition of high technology businesses which fit STC's ambitions. At present the group is poorly represented overseas where its interests were previously handled by ITT. STC was also obliged to refrain from competing directly with ITT

businesses throughout the world.

The process of acquisition began when STC announced the purchase of International Aeradio, the British Airways, high technology and communications subsidiary, for £60m last month. In Sir Kenneth's book IAL represented an almost ideal STC purchase. The company has a strong high technology base, employs 4,500 highly skilled people and has a strong overseas presence.

Future acquisitions will be in the same mould - either strong in high technology, or overseas representation and with a minimum turnover of £10m. "We are extremely unlikely to move into biotechnology in a big way but we will be in advanced electronics technology and software technology," he says.

But Sir Kenneth does not want to be seen as a stock market predator. "We want to be wanted," he explains. For this reason it is unlikely that STC will use its cash reserves which are replenished day by day from a crop of cash-generating businesses to launch an unwanted bid for a rival electronics company.

However, there will be opportunities for acquisition if Sir Kenneth's theory about a secondary wave of collapses in the British industry is proved correct. He speaks with conviction - and as a director of Midland Bank - when he warns that a second wave of company collapses will follow once the recession ends, not because of poor housekeeping, but because there is no demand for their products. Many of these com-

panies will have high technology divisions which could be of interest to STC, he suggests. All this means that the STC that Sir Kenneth hands over when he retires as chairman in five years will be vastly different from the organization he inherited when he joined the company from ITT in the early 1970s.

He has already begun the search for a successor as chief executive of the company and plans to relinquish those responsibilities in two years time if he can find the right person.

The priority when Sir Kenneth joined the company was to eliminate heavy losses particularly in its defence business. His draconian solution was to pull out of defence completely where STC was constantly overrunning on costs and had weaker contacts at the Ministry of Defence than its rivals, partly because of STC's American parentage.

And despite the fact that STC had been in Britain since 1883 Sir Kenneth was to be dogged time and time again by the stigma of ITT's ownership when tendering for government contracts. The most recent example came when STC's rivals launched what he described as an "overt and covert" campaign against STC over the allocation of work for the System X advanced electronic telephone exchange. In the autumn of last year British Telecom decided to concentrate production of the exchange with GEC and Plessey.

Critics bailed the decision as a blow to STC's fortunes, but Sir Kenneth counters by saying that the decision could be a blessing in disguise. Orders won from British Telecom for traditional TXE4A exchanges as compensation for the loss of the System X contract could be worth nearly £1,000m by the end of the decade if there are any further delays in introducing System X.

The only tie with ITT these days stems from a 20 year agreement to share and invest in new ITT technology and the influence of three ITT nominated directors on the 15-man STC board.

It is this new-found freedom and the more flexible structure for the group which will provide the basis for future expansion.

Andrew Cornelius

### Economic notebook

## 'Protection' that spells disaster

There is more cant talked today about free trade than almost any other subject. Basically, we are all in favour of it, but we are all undermining it.

Take the news that American unions and congressmen are gearing up to prevent British Steel exporting slab steel from Ravenscraig to be finished in the United States. They want swinging new tariffs.

You can see their point. BSC's Mr Ian MacGregor has apparently found a way round last year's US/EEC steel quota agreements. But these were hashed up after the US threatened to impose prohibitive taxes on imports from European state enterprises on the somewhat ideological ground that any losses met by the state were subsidies.

It is right to condemn these American pressures, part of a general protectionist drive. But at least there is little compelling economic reason why there should be a regular trade exporting European crude steel across the Atlantic.

Back at home, the Severn-Trent Water Authority is planning to drain 6,000 acres of water meadows in Leicestershire at a cost of £66.4m of public money. If successful, it could raise wheat output by 5,000 tonnes a year. At the same time, President Reagan is paying American farmers large sums to keep good wheat land fallow to ease the American grain surplus. Yet, according to a recent Commonwealth Secretariat study, the EEC producers price of wheat has been averaging almost twice the American level. If it were not for hefty protection through the Common Agricultural Policy, we should be growing less wheat, not more. And our landscape and finances would probably be better for it.

Parliamentary critic Mr Richard Body rightly points out that EEC farm policies, not least on milk and butter, lead to some of the worst and most endemic instances of dumping in the world.

It is the same story with sugar. We have dramatically expanded a barely economic beet industry at the expense of poor tropical countries so that we can, with rare exceptions, pay more for sugar than we need. Regimes to steady agricultural prices and output are one thing. Outrageous protection is another.

The only real excuse is the strategic desire for self-sufficiency, which hardly sounds convincing for countries eager to tie themselves to cheap Russian gas supplies.

The economics of Japanese agriculture and protection are even more bizarre than ours. Naturally, leading Japanese industrialists are only too happy to sacrifice local orange-growers to deflect threats from the US to their own export trade.

That might help the supposed imbalances in US/Japanese trade, but offers little possibilities for Europe. Indeed the idea that bilateral trade should be in balance is absurd in a complex world free trade system. Yet this is now the peg on which Europe hangs protection against Japan.

So-called voluntary agreements, whereby free enterprise countries use state deals or industry cartels to by-pass the market, already cover a long list of goods as well as cars. In the car trade itself, their main effect in Britain is to raise prices cut consumption and divert the import trade to other EEC countries.

The EEC has recently negotiated a whole new list with the Japanese government to limit imports of, among other things light commercial vehicles, advanced machine tools, fork-lift trucks, motor cycles and watches. The most notorious item was video recorders, where the Japanese were required to raise prices by £100 a time and reserve a share of the market for machines made in this country but these are included in the Japanese quota, so Britain is a party to protection against its own workers.

These things do no good. The multi-fibre agreement, set up in 1974 as a temporary measure to allow old textile industries to adjust, has simply turned into ever-tighter curbs, even reductions, on imports from developing Far East countries, and has left our own industry in a worse mess than before as a new queue of yet cheaper producers undermines Hong Kong and Korea.

We are gradually converting the world into trading blocks in particular building barriers against the Far East. So much for free trade.

Graham Searjeant

### The

## New Throgmorton Trust PLC

The pro forma net asset value attributable to each new Capital Share to be issued under the terms of the reconstruction, based on the company's balance sheet as at 31.3.83, was 58p per Share.

### Blagden Industries PLC

| Year ended December 26th | 1982   | 1981   |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| Profit before taxation   | £000's | £000's |
|                          | 1,743  | 2,006  |
| Profit after taxation    | 1,479  | 1,220  |
| Dividends per share      | 6.0p   | 6.0p   |
| Earnings per share       | 12.5p  | 8.5p   |
| Net assets per share     | 137p   | 132p   |

#### Prospects:

Group turnover was a record £62.176 million and was 6% higher than that achieved in the previous year but profitability was affected by tighter margins. The balance sheet of the group remains strong with borrowings some £250,000 lower than they were at the end of the previous year and we continue to enjoy a low debt to equity ratio. Since early February there has been some upturn in demand accompanied by signs of an improvement in business confidence. If this trend continues we are strongly placed to take advantage of it and can expect to have a much more successful year.

A. R. Sparrow, Chairman.

## Church

(Manufacturers and retailers of quality shoes)

66 Manufacturing in the UK contributed over £1 million in profits with exports at an all-time record 99

reports Ian B Church, Chairman

- Pre-tax profits increased by 19% to £1.85 million on sales up 10%. An increased final dividend makes a 9.5p total against 8.5p in 1981.
- USA, Belgium and France did well and Canada improved in the second half.
- 1983 has started well with a distinct improvement in retailing and the factories are busy. I expect increased profits provided retail trading continues to prosper.

| Comparative results | 1982  | 1981  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Sales               | £m    | £m    |
|                     | 39.06 | 35.8  |
| Trading profit      | 2.63  | 2.26  |
| Interest payable    | 8.776 | 0.705 |
| Profit before tax   | 1.85  | 1.56  |
| Earnings per share  | 22.7p | 20.2p |

Report and accounts will be posted to shareholders on 13th April 1983. Church & Co. PLC, St. James, Northampton NN5 5JB.









**BOXING**  
CAMAQUEY, Cuba: International Match: Cuba  
vs United States 6-1.







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Mercedes-Benz

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Applications, quoting reference 570, should be sent to:

**Brian Woodhead & Co Ltd**  
The Coach House, 95a Hagley Road, Edgbaston,  
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Executive Search & Selection Division

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The Director of a rapidly expanding fashion group is looking for a multi-lingual (Italian, Spanish, French and English) Personal Assistant/Secretary with an interest in fashion, to help run the company.

The right person must be dynamic, self-motivated and extremely competent in all office and allied duties with the ability to handle all management tasks. Free to test of short trips to Europe an advantage. Generous salary.

Write, giving all necessary details and experience, to: CASHILL Ltd, 33 Milton St, Bath, Avon. No calls please.

## SECRETARY/PA

Director of campaigning process group requires a Secretary/PA preferably with experience in P.R. press or broadcasting. Must be willing to work by herself and cope with a variety of tasks. Salary negotiable. Write with CV to Box 1083 H The Times.

## PRACTICE MANAGER

required for busy NHS general medical practice from 1st May 1983. Intelligent graduate with experience in administrative or managerial work. Salary according to experience but within the range £7,000-£9,000 pa.

01-328 1803

(continued on page 27)

## EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

## University of Reading

## LECTURESHIP IN PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

"New Blood" Appointment

Applications are invited for the above post in the Department of Chemistry. The successful applicant will be required to initiate research in the general area which falls between molecular spectroscopy and conventional physical chemistry. The post is for a full-time position and will involve teaching in Physical Chemistry/Chemical Physics.

The appointment is from 1 October 1983 on the scale £2,376 to £3,120 p.a. Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) are available from the Personnel Office, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AH. Quoting Ref. AC345.

Closing date 6th May 1983.

## International Appointments

Can you imagine a better deal than—

the choice of a permanent position OR a 4-year contract which may be extended at your option;

a high salary, full fringe benefits and lower cost of living;

a generous allowance to cover removal expenses

— with South Africa's largest publicly owned and fastest growing life assurance and investment group, which has strong international associations.

Our Admin Projects Manager, who himself made the move in 1981, will be visiting Britain from 3 May this year. He will be able to tell you what South Africa really is like from an Englishman's point of view. He will be interested in meeting self-motivated, ambitious people aged under 30 who have the ability and desire to make a career for themselves in life assurance administration in one of the following fields:

- Management
- O & M Systems
- Accounting

A good degree or progress in life assurance or other professional examinations will be an advantage.

There are exceptional opportunities in our Johannesburg Head Office for able and experienced people. The staff of our successful and rapidly expanding enterprise has increased fifteen fold since 1970, and our assets by over 60 times to £1 500 million. We have also acquired significant shareholdings in life assurance companies in the United Kingdom and Canada.

Write, giving full details of experience, qualifications, age, marital status, current salary, etc. — and the address and telephone number where he can contact you during May — to:

Mc G.F. Griffin  
Manager — Admin. Projects  
Liberty Life Association  
P.O. Box 10499  
JOHANNESBURG 2000  
South Africa

to sunny and prosperous South Africa with a wealth of opportunities for personal progress, and rewards for individual effort and achievement, with

LIBERTY LIFE ASSOCIATION

He will contact you to arrange an interview. By courtesy of our associate company, Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, interviews, wherever possible, will be at the Royal Exchange, London EC3 (Tel. 01-283-7101). If you are unable to get to London, we will try to make alternative arrangements.

## Sales and Marketing Appointments

GRADUATE wanted to train with an established company in the field of sales and marketing. The successful candidate will be offered a salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. Excellent training and career development opportunities. Apply in writing to: C. H. Dunlop, Director, Sales and Marketing, 37 Eastcheap, London EC3.

## CREME DE LA CREME

## ADVERTISING SECRETARY/PA

A successful Secretary with a flair for organisation, confident ability and a proven background in a responsible position is required to assist a Senior Executive in the Advertising Company's head office. Excellent salary together with pension and other benefits. A proven background in a responsible position is required to assist a Senior Executive in the Advertising Company's head office. Excellent salary together with pension and other benefits. A proven background in a responsible position is required to assist a Senior Executive in the Advertising Company's head office. Excellent salary together with pension and other benefits.

## SPANISH BI-LINGUAL

Top PA position to the Vice President of a major international bank. Our client works a complete Secretary with a minimum of 10 years' experience in both Spanish and English, fast accurate typing skills and the ability to converse at all levels in both languages.

Contact: Tessa Mortimer  
01-582 8781  
(three calls)

## PROPERTY - £7,000

## GLoucester Road

The Chairman and two Directors of this development and construction company need an efficient PA Secretary to help organise their busy work schedule. The job is full of variety — apart from general secretarial duties, there is a lot of liaison with clients, answering queries and working as part of a team. Friendly informal atmosphere. Ideal candidate aged 20's with skills of 90/80.

CALL 434 4045

## Crook Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

## PRODUCT MANAGER

c.£10,000 PLUS CAR.

Servis—The innovative UK domestic appliance manufacturer—whose recently launched Servis Quartz is recognised as the most advanced micro-chip washing machine available on the European market, is looking for someone to play a key role in the Marketing Department.

The person we are looking for will be responsible for the day to day product management of the Servis home laundry range—developing and implementing advertising, promotional and pricing strategies, as well as offering a creative input into the preparation of the long term marketing plan.

Ideally the successful candidate should be aged between 25-35, have been educated to degree level or its equivalent, and have had 2-3 years experience in consumer goods product management. Numeracy, an ability to communicate and self-motivation are essential qualities for this position.

As there will be opportunities for overseas travel a knowledge of at least one foreign language would be an advantage. This is an exciting opportunity to join a young and enthusiastic marketing team. If you are interested please write giving full CV to:

The Marketing Manager,  
Servis Sales & Marketing Limited, Derwent Road, Kings Hill,  
Westminster, West Midlands WS10 7TE.

## Servis

## CAN YOU SELL ICE TO ESKIMOS?

## SUPER SALES EXEC URGENTLY NEEDED

We are a leading UK company in executive aircraft sales. We require an exceptional salesperson to cover part of our range (£500,000 to £1,500,000 per unit) to be based in Knightsbridge. Candidates should have an excellent record in selling high capital goods to top management. High salary negotiable for the right person plus substantial commission.

TEL: RUTH HARVEY on 01-245 9837

## Considering a change of career?

A HIGH INCOME. You will earn over £25,000 in your first year with us if you meet basic targets. Our better consultants meet over £30,000 p.a. SECURITY: Working for part of £1.8 billion financial services group, you will be on a basis of £6,000 (negotiable) and based in LONDON, LEEDS, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER or BIRMINGHAM. If you are aged 22 and over, positive, hardworking and well spoken, ring 01-222 9351, Ext. 28

## Vacancy exists for an experienced

## SALES EXECUTIVE

selling specialist printing to City institutions. Based in the City, the job entails servicing existing customers as well as developing new business. The salary will reflect upon the experience of the applicant. A car is supplied.

Please submit application to:

**P. W. CAITHNESS,**  
Sales and Marketing Director

**AERO-PRINT**

Gatehouse Way  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP19 3DD

## Public Appointments

## PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST

£11,912 - £15,948

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL (NORTHERN IRELAND) POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Policy Planning and Research Unit (PPRU) of the Department of Finance and Personnel provides professional services in economics, statistics and social research to assist Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments in carrying out their responsibilities over the broad range of public policy. The work demands professional skills and the personal attributes to participate effectively in groups concerned with policy analysis and programme evaluation.

Applications are invited for a pensionable post at Principal Economist level, in the Economics Division of the PPRU. Applicants must possess a first or second class honours degree in Economics or a relevant post-graduate qualification and have substantial post-graduate experience, preferably at least 5 years.

The post is open to applicants with a background in either quantitative or non-quantitative Economics and the successful candidate will lead a small team of professionals concerned with policy advice and evaluation. Starting salary will be related to qualifications and experience. Applicants must not be more than 55 years of age on the closing date (ie born on or after 5 May 1928). The Civil Service Commissioners may decide to interview only those applicants who appear from the information available, including level of academic attainment and relevant experience, to be best qualified.

The post is open to both men and women. For an application form please write or telephone (quoting job reference SB36/83/7) to the Civil Service Commission, Rosepark House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3NR (telephone Dundonald 02318 4567 ext 553). Completed forms must be returned to arrive not later than the closing date, 5 May 1983.

**NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE**

## THE GIRLS' PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL TRUST

The Council of the GPST invite applications for the post of

## Secretary

which will become vacant from 1st January, 1984, upon the retirement of the present Secretary, Mr H. Evans, MA. The Trust is responsible for 24 independent schools situated throughout England and Wales and administered centrally from the Head Office in Westminster. The starting salary for this pensionable post will not be less than £17,500.

Full details of the appointment may be obtained from the Secretary, 26 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AN. Closing date for applications 17th May, 1983.

## WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

## Part-time Appointments

Part-time Appointments required by Westminster Medical School Research Unit to run small Appointments Office. Hours of work are negotiable but will not be less than five hours per week. Salary pro-rata on scale £5,895-£8,474-£11,158 L.W. Further particulars may be obtained from The Secretary, Westminster Medical School, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AR to whom written applications and two references should be made by 30th April 1983.

## BANKING AND ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS

A TAX MANAGER £12,000 p.a. (incl. car, petrol, travel, etc.) City/N London. A SENIOR ACCOUNTANT £11,000 p.a. (incl. car, petrol, travel, etc.) City/N London. A SENIOR ACCOUNTANT £11,000 p.a. (incl. car, petrol, travel, etc.) City/N London. A SENIOR ACCOUNTANT £11,000 p.a. (incl. car, petrol, travel, etc.) City/N London. A SENIOR ACCOUNTANT £11,000 p.a. (incl. car, petrol, travel, etc.) City/N London.

## CORPORATE FINANCE ASSISTANT

To assist in the development of an International Corporate Finance Department. Chartered accountancy background together with 3 years relevant post-qualification experience necessary. Knowledge of French and/or German an advantage but not essential. Competitive salary to be negotiated together with range of benefits.

Please write to:  
**ELIZABETH TAGERT**  
Sarah International Securities Ltd.  
686 St. Andrew's Hill, London, EC4V 5BY

## THE INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH

is a research organization in the UK. A small administration operates from Chelsea where a vacancy has arisen for the post of

## SALARIES OFFICER.

The Institute employs 140 medical and scientific staff together with 280 administrative, clerical and other personnel. The Salaries Officer is responsible for the salaries and allowances of all staff, including the preparation of the Annual Financial Accounts. The post holder will be responsible for the Annual Financial Accounts and for the payment of all salaries and wages and related accounting. There is a non-contributory pension scheme. Applications with the names of three referees to the Secretary, Institute of Cancer Research, 94-96 Chesham Place, London, SW1W 7BU, quoting Ref. 302/8/17.

## INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

(University of London)

Judd Street, London, WC1H 9QS.

## ACCOUNTANT

Applications are invited from appropriately qualified persons for the appointment of Accountant, which will date from 1st June 1983, or as soon as possible thereafter. Salary will be within the scale £11,825 - £14,665, including L.A. (under review).

Further information and application forms may be obtained from The Secretary, Institute of Ophthalmology, Judd Street, London, WC1H 9QS to whom completed application forms should be sent by 28th April 1983.

## Computer Appointments

Appear each

Tuesday

For further

information

phone

Lindsay Heggie.

on

01-837-1234

Ext 7677



# Appointments

**1983 Volunteer Profile**

**AGE:** All ages from 20 to 65-year-olds. Most in late twenties.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** You must be: a) a resident of the UK, b) a graduate, c) a professional, d) a manager, e) a senior executive, f) a senior manager, g) a senior executive, h) a senior manager, i) a senior executive, j) a senior manager, k) a senior executive, l) a senior manager, m) a senior executive, n) a senior manager, o) a senior executive, p) a senior manager, q) a senior executive, r) a senior manager, s) a senior executive, t) a senior manager, u) a senior executive, v) a senior manager, w) a senior executive, x) a senior manager, y) a senior executive, z) a senior manager.

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** The practical problems facing developing countries in the fight for self-reliance require practical solutions. That's why over half the jobs overseas need someone with work experience; with the flexibility to translate theory into practical solutions.

**ATTITUDES:** The confidence and independence to cope with the unfamiliar - not least a foreign job. The staying power to work for two years on a volunteer basis in a demanding and often difficult environment. A commitment to social justice which recognises the right of people in developing countries to run their own affairs. The sense of humour and warmth to enjoy the challenges and sting of the inevitable disappointments and frustrations. An interest in other people and a desire to learn from them as well as to contribute to their development. Above all, the will to work in the Third World as it is, not as some might like it to be. To communicate, to build creative relationships.

Address for further correspondence: Enquiries Unit, c/o VSO, 141/143, Voluntary Service Overseas, 9 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PU.

VSO is grateful to the many individuals, Overseas Development Administration and Industrial, commercial and charitable organisations, including Ciba Ltd, Oxfam, Action Aid, Rotary and the Quaker's Jubilee Trust, whose generous contributions make its work overseas possible.

**CHIEF CHEMIST**  
FOR BOPP FILM MANUFACTURING PLANT IN INDONESIA

Candidate should have master's degree in Polymer Chemistry with minimum 5 to 7 years experience in man made fibre industry/BOPP film producing plant. Should be fully conversant with all testing procedures of polyester, polyamide, polypropylene resins and physical and chemical testing methods of international standards. Candidate selected will be responsible for setting up a new laboratory and for developing testing and quality control procedures.

Candidates having experience in film production line preferred. Post offers excellent remuneration and benefits for the right candidate.

Please apply giving full particulars and salary expectations within 10 days to Box 0897 H The Times.

**WWF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND**  
**FUND-RAISING EXECUTIVE**

WWF, the leading international conservation organisation, requires a Fund-Raising Executive at its head office in Surrey to initiate, research and implement approaches to major charitable trusts, companies and other potential donors.

Applicants should possess sound and proven administrative capability with a flair for producing carefully researched written documentation and presentations. Self motivation and an ability to motivate others are essential.

The salary will be £8,250 p.a. together with pension scheme and other staff benefits.

Please apply with full curriculum vitae to: Mrs V. C. Burbridge, World Wildlife Fund, Panda House, 11-13 Oakford Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QU.

**DAIRY TRADE FEDERATION**  
**Policy Issues - Graduate**  
c £3,500

The Dairy Trade Federation is concerned about tomorrow's issues on the buying of milk and its conversion into dairy products.

The liquid milk market in particular is facing a challenging year and a graduate is needed to carry work forward into 1984/85.

Ideally, you will hold a degree in economics or business studies and be in your mid-twenties. Experience of the food industry or agriculture is an added plus. You must be able to analyse information swiftly, communicate effectively on paper and at meetings, and work closely with different levels of management. You must have the ability to develop a statistical service on a micro-computer.

Interested... then write for an application form to: Mrs J. D. Coleman, Industrial Relations Director, 18 Convent Square, London, NW1 4CP. Telephone: 01-485 7244.

**Senior Interviewer (Perm) 21+ £ excellent**

We are a small private employment bureau in WCB and we seek a mature experienced person to join our team. You will have at least 2 years experience together with the ability to work as part of a highly professional team. Salary and prospects unlimited. (All calls treated in strictest confidence). For more details call Lynn Robinson 404 4933/405 5858 (daytime) or 0438 72782 (even). (Pete Cook)

**International Appointments**  
are featured every  
**THURSDAY**  
for details please ring  
**01-278 9161/5**

**HORIZONS**  
The Times Guide to career development

## Beware those itchy feet

**Godfrey Golzen on how to time your job move**

With all the stresses that entails, may be quite the wrong answer.

A job switch after years with the same firm often turns out badly because the person concerned has looked only at the job itself, not at the wider task of adapting to a whole new working environment. Mid-career job changes are particularly vulnerable. They tend, on the basis of 15 or 20 years' experience, to have definite ideas on how things ought to be done. The trouble is that much of this may apply, not so much to the job itself, but to the situation in the last place they worked for. Another firm might go about things in quite a different way.

The need to find the right match between your personal development and the organizational climate of a prospective employer or the requirements of a particular job is by no means confined to mid-career. Passages, a widely discussed American book by Gail Sheehy has pointed out that people's lives fall into phases which also shape their attitudes at work.

In their twenties, for instance, they tend to reject parental influence and this expresses itself in a general

impatience with accepted ways of doing things. In an organization looking to make a break with the past a young rebel in a hurry might acquire whizz-kid status, but he or she would certainly feel stifled by one where precedent and tradition were highly valued.

The next phase - from the late twenties to the late thirties - is one of transition, of realization that a straight line may not be the shortest way from A to B - that there may, for instance, be valid reasons why certain decisions have to be referred to the main board. The trick is to avoid, in those years, jobs where you are likely to be type-cast and to go for those where you can try out a variety of roles.

The next years, from the late forties to the early fifties, are the peak career years. They can be unstable and dangerous heights when the "Peter Principle" operates - the process somewhat unkindly described by its American inventor as that of people being promoted beyond their abilities. The able accountant finds it difficult to cope with the problems of top management, or the good salesman becomes the ineffective sales director.

It is wise to be aware that the "fast moving" organization beloved of advertisement writers can be a tough ride for those used to a more deliberate pace.

## Schools and industry link up

**Catherine Avent explains how pupils can find out about the working world**

Ever since James Callaghan's Ruskin speech there has been increased interest in forging links between education and the world of work. The TUC and CBI jointly promoted the Schools Council Industry Project which has proved an admirable pump-priming agency in those areas where it operates. The recent initiative from the Manpower Services Commission have prompted many teachers to reflect upon the changing structure of employment and the effects of the recession on employment for school-leavers.

A tenth of university graduates and a quarter of polytechnic degree and diploma holders are having to take positions at lower levels than were traditional for their predecessors, or face unemployment. They are, of course, better off than school-leavers, half of whom will probably have to rely on the Youth Training Scheme for their introduction into work. Greater understanding of the realities of the job market is vitally necessary for boys and girls of secondary school age.

Anecdotal evidence abounds to illustrate the ignorance of many business men and industrialists that young people have curious notions about the functions of industry and commerce, and are sometimes manifestly prejudiced against careers in wealth-creating sectors of the economy. (The Schools Council Industry

Project emphasizes that "industry" is not synonymous with "manufacturing", but includes the service industries such as catering and distribution, financial institutions, banking and the commercial professions).

Preparation for public examinations, time-tabled rigidity and extra-classroom activities militate against extended visits to workplaces during term-time just as the demands of the YTS, placements for sandwich course undergraduates, and sponsored students often appear to have first claim on the capacity of employers to provide work experience for youngsters still at school.

Yet the rewards are great, if intangible. Ask teachers who have operated work-experience programmes and they will confirm that pupils return to school after a week or fortnight out with demonstrably greater social skills and maturity.

Many employers are familiar with the agencies which promote school industry links: Project Trident, Young Enterprise, the Industrial Society, INDEK, CRAC Insight Programmes, for example, and the CBI Introduction to Industry scheme for teachers. In engineering and technology there are special schemes for teacher

secondments and for young engineers to "open windows" by presenting to pupils the challenge and excitement of professional engineering.

Understanding British industry, like the Schools Council Industry Project, operates in certain parts of the country to provide activities for teachers and industrialists to share experiences, or even exchange roles for short periods, thus providing notable enrichment of the curriculum for pupils who may not be considering careers in related fields but for whom an insight into industry and commerce may be valuable in their future work as doctors, lawyers or public administrators. For future teachers the experience can be seminal because they will affect the attitudes of generations of boys and girls.

More needs to be done, however, to bridge the gap in understanding between schools and industry. A young manager, involved in setting up a company simulation for local sixth formers, or a young clerk or production worker helping 16 year olds to make the transition to working life by coaching them in preparation for school leaving can find a rewarding form of career development, now that prospects in the traditional sense have so often diminished.

The author is ILEA careers guidance inspector.

## Appointments

**CIRCULATION MANAGER**  
**BUSINESS TRAVELLER**  
**MAGAZINE**

Requires System Orientated Professional to build subscription sales in the UK and Continental Europe, and to develop an in-house computerized system for subscribers records, renewal, invoicing etc.

Candidates must be organised and efficient and have experience of magazine circulation. Generous remuneration for the right individual.

Please write with C.V. to Anthony MacDonald, Business Traveller, 61, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1LA.

**The Museums Association**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Salary: £11,804 - £13,063 + £1,154 ILW

Applications invited for the post of Executive Officer at the Museums Association. The Museum Association is a national body for the advancement of museums and the promotion of museum studies. The Executive Officer will be responsible to Council for a number of duties including matters relating to administrative and financial functions and systems, the management of museum resources and the co-ordination of all policies determined by Council as well as acting as deputy to the Secretary.

The Council considers that the successful applicant will demonstrate an interest in museums affairs, may possess a formal education in management which will possess some managerial ability.

Full details may be obtained from, and applications should be sent to, the Secretary of The Museums Association, 34 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SF (Tel: 01-404 4767) to arrive by Friday, 29 April 1983.

**GLC**  
Working for London

## Ecologists

The Council's Transportation & Development Department has vacancies within its Development Planning Branch for a number of experienced ecologists to work in the following areas:

**Planning & Development**

Devising for the Senior Ecologist and assisting in co-ordinating the work of the ecology section, particularly in relation to the formulation and monitoring of ecological policies and the management of casework and advisory services. Responsible for appraising the ecological consequences of major new developments.

Applicants must hold a degree in Biology or Environmental Science, or a recognized qualification in Town & Country Planning. Sound management skills and considerable experience of environmental planning or nature conservation gained in a Government department or Local Authority are essential.

Salary: £11,800 - £15,621 inclusive.

**Community Liaison**

Providing an ecological input to planning casework, assessing the implications of proposed developments and advising and liaising with voluntary groups on ecological matters. Some attendance at evening meetings will be necessary.

Applicants must hold a degree, or equivalent, in Natural or Environmental Science and be experienced in Environmental planning or conservation. Experience of working with voluntary groups would be an advantage.

Salary: £11,800 - £15,353 inclusive.

**Data Systems**

Reviewing existing sources of biological/environmental data and establishing close working links with biological record centres, voluntary organisations and national statutory agencies in order to develop and maintain an ecological data-base for London's strategic planning.

Applicants must hold a degree in Natural or Environmental Science and possess considerable experience of handling biological/environmental data by computer. An analytical approach and an interest in natural history are also essential.

Salary: £11,800 - £15,353 inclusive.

**Habitat Management**

Providing scientific and technical advice on the creation and management of habitats, including ecological parks, local nature reserves, the channelised use of natural defences and land rehabilitation, supervising research projects in this field.

Applicants must hold a degree in Natural Science, preferably Botany or Zoology, and have gained post-graduate experience in habitat management, ideally in relation to artificial habitats. An analytical approach and a sound knowledge of ecosystem processes are also essential.

Salary: £11,800 - £15,353 inclusive.

We welcome applications from disabled people and all sections of the community irrespective of sex, ethnic origin, colour or sexual orientation.

For further details and an application form, which must be returned by 29th April 1983, to: The Secretary, Staff Selection, Transportation & Development Department, Greater London Council, Room 454B, The Courtyard, London SE1 7PB. Telephone: 01-633 7791/6399.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer.

## Appointments

### Chief Executive

**WELSH WATER AUTHORITY**

The Authority covers nearly the whole of Wales plus parts of adjoining counties. Annual expenditure is around £150m and over 5,000 people are employed in this business, which includes the supply/distribution of water, treatment/disposal of sewage, land drainage, recreation and amenities.

- THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE will be appointed to membership of the Authority. Supported by an experienced and professional management team, the person will be expected to ensure that the provision of these services is efficient and cost effective.
- THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT is proven success in a general management role where man-management has been a significant feature. Responsibility for profit and involvement with technical services or products will both be advantageous.
- PREFERRED AGE: 40-50. Location Brecon. Salary exceeds £30,000. Index-linked pension.

Write in complete confidence to D. A. O. Davies as adviser to the Authority.

**TYZACK & PARTNERS LTD**  
SEARCH & SELECTION  
10 HALLAM STREET LONDON WIN 6DJ

## HEAD OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES SECTION

The Section translates, or commissions from freelance translators, the translation of, more than 10 million words annually selected from the CO's output into a variety of foreign languages (mainly European).

The successful candidate will lead a team of a dozen translators, who are also engaged in editing and revising, and will ensure the quality of the translated material, which is intended for direct publication in the overseas press without further editing.

Candidates must have a native or near-native command of English; competence in both French and Spanish, preferably to at least second class honours degree standard or its equivalent; a sound knowledge of at least one other modern European language, preferably German or Italian; an appreciation of translation work in an information context; management ability; knowledge of international affairs and familiarity with European Community terminology. Knowledge of standard written modern Arabic would be an advantage.

Starting salary for this London based post will be between £13,130 and £17,165 (including £1230 inner London weighting) according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 12 May 1983) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencore Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1TB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/216338.

## CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

## Assistant Inspector of Historic Buildings

...to inspect and report on buildings of special architectural or historic interest, and make recommendations about their preservation and listing under the Town and Country Planning Act. Also to advise the Historic Buildings Council on particular merits of buildings and conservation areas and other associated matters.

Candidates should normally have a relevant degree with first or second class honours (where divided) or a relevant degree awarded for postgraduate study or research. Candidates without these qualifications will only be considered if they have other qualifications or experience of special value. All candidates must have a working knowledge of English architectural styles from medieval times onwards, and preference will be given to those who also have a specialist knowledge of a particular period. Valid UK driving licence essential.

Salary: £6,740 - £9,150. Starting salary may be above the minimum. Promotion prospects.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 6 May 1983) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencore Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1TB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/216339.

Department of the Environment, London

**CJA**  
Key board appointment with scope for further responsibilities

## FINANCIAL DIRECTOR - MARINE INSURANCE

**CITY** **£35,000+ and car**

**MANAGERS OF LEADING INTERNATIONAL MARINE INSURANCE ORGANISATION**

We invite applications from Chartered Accountants, aged 35-45, with not less than 8 years' broadly based commercial experience covering both the treasury function and the control of sophisticated and computerised accounting operations. Ideally this will include at least 3 years at senior management level in banking, insurance, or an allied field. Evidence of previous effective investment management is required. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Chief Executive and Board for monitoring the performance of large funds under management, short term direct investment and a wide range of financial, accounting and administrative matters. A persuasive but positive approach is essential in a situation offering a very large measure of personal responsibility. Initial salary negotiable in excess of £35,000, car, contributory pension, free life assurance, family P.P.P. and assistance with relocation expenses, if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference FDM 4164/JT, to the Managing Director.

**CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON ASSOCIATES (MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS) LIMITED,**  
35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH.  
TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-638 9216.

Excellent career opportunity for a numerate graduate wishing to move into the corporate treasury function

**CJRA**

## TRAINEE TREASURY ASSISTANT

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Continued from page 29  
 to be held in the University Church of St. Peter, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2PH on Friday, 22nd April at 11.30 a.m.

## BIRTHS

**ALABASTER** - On 11th April at Crayke Hospital, to Rosamund Mary and Stephen Alabaster, a son, James Alabaster, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**BROOK** - On April 6th at Queen Mary's Hospital, to Susan Mary and George Brook, a daughter, Emily Brook, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**COBBIN** - On April 4th, to Rosemary and David at St. Mary's, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**COBBIN** - On April 4th, to Rosemary and David at St. Mary's, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**EVITT** - On April 7th, at West London, to John and Susan, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**JACKSON** - On April 4th, to Francis and Charles, a daughter, Rebecca, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**KEYSER** - On April 10th, 1983, at St. Peter's, to Peter and Marie-Claire, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**MARSHALL** - On April 12th, to Carol and Nick, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**PERROWE** - On April 10th, 1983, at Crayke Hospital, to Susan and Peter, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**RINTON** - On April 11th at Queen Mary's Hospital, to Sharon and Peter, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

## DEATHS

**ALLAN** - On April 10, at Dorset County Hospital, Margate, Kent, aged 82, John Allan, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**ASH** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Ash, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**BADHAM** - On April 10, 1983, at St. Mary's, to Susan and Peter, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 51cm, 9.5lb.

**BARNARD** - On April 11, 1983, at home, aged 82, John Barnard, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**BURGESS** - On April 11, 1983, at home, aged 82, John Burgess, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**BRIDLEY** - On April 11, 1983, at home, aged 82, John Bridley, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**CALVERT** - On April 11, 1983, at home, aged 82, John Calvert, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**DURANT** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Durant, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**GREEN** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Green, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**HAMILTON** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Hamilton, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**HODGSON** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Hodgson, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**JUEL** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Juel, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**MANTREAU** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Mantreau, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**MAYHEW** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Mayhew, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**ODDER** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Odder, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**RAWLINSON** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Rawlinson, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**SOLIHES** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Solihes, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**STAYTON** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Stayton, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**THOMAS** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Thomas, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**THOMSON** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Thomson, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

**WILKINSON** - On April 12th, at home, aged 82, John Wilkinson, formerly of 10, St. Peter's, London, died of a heart attack.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

**FRY** - A service of thanksgiving for the life of the late Professor D. Fry will be held in the University Church of St. Peter, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2PH on Friday, 22nd April at 11.30 a.m.

**HAYTER** - A memorial service for the late Mr. H. Hayter will be held in the University Church of St. Peter, 100, Strand, London WC2R 2PH on Friday, 22nd April at 11.30 a.m.

## IN MEMORIAM

**CLARK** - Frank L. Clark, RN (retired), died April 10, 1983, in Spain. He was a member of the Royal Naval School of Music and a member of the Royal Naval School of Music.

**HOLDS** - Douglas William, FRGS, died April 10, 1983, in Spain. He was a member of the Royal Naval School of Music and a member of the Royal Naval School of Music.

**JAFFE** - In fond memory of a loving and beloved wife, mother and grandmother, April 14th 1961.

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## Doubts over fate of Galtieri

From Andrew Thompson  
Buenos Aires

Amid conflicting reports and rumours, General Leopoldo Galtieri, former President of Argentina, was taken from his home in a residential district of Buenos Aires on Tuesday night to an undisclosed military unit, where he will a period of disciplinary arrest.

Journalists who had spent all day outside said that the general left at 21.30 pm local time in a private car escorted by three Army vehicles. Rumours that he would resist arrest proved to be unfounded.

Army sources, which had earlier confirmed that General Galtieri faced 60 days detention, began to suggest that the sentence was only 45 days. The Army has been reducing the information it is prepared to give on the former President's precise legal situation.

Central to the charges against General Galtieri are statements he made in an interview published by the Buenos Aires newspaper *Clarín* on April 2.

He was highly critical of General Mario Menéndez, whom he had appointed military governor of the Falklands. "After San Carlos I thought of replacing General Menéndez. I did not do so because I wanted to avoid panic, a breach in our operational front," he said, adding that General Menéndez "let me down" and that "he seemed to sink five centimetres with each day that passed".

General Menéndez is one of the officers who have demanded the formation of Army commissions of honour to investigate General Galtieri's statements.

In another passage, General Galtieri, blamed his junta colleagues and Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez his Foreign Minister, for Argentina's failure to take the last chance of a negotiated settlement.

"At a junta meeting, and after asking them not to let me for what I was going to say, because they knew I was a bit imaginative and impulsive, I proposed a draft statement to be sent to the United Nations. It said roughly that Argentina would withdraw the fleet and promising to negotiate."

"All those present - Costa Méndez and Admiral Suárez del Cerro were there as well - said there was no domestic political space for such a move."



Flood waters in Cologne leave a landing stage along the Rhine quay marooned.

## Flood brings chaos to German cities

Bonn (Reuters) - The cities of Bonn, Cologne and Koblenz were awash, yesterday as thousands of West German firemen, troops and volunteers fought flood waters from the overflowing Rhine.

In northern France, 12 people were reported to have died in four days of flooding, according to French radio. The French Interior Ministry said it was aware of only three dead and three missing, although this was not a final figure.

River levels were falling yesterday after heavy rain abated.

In West German, the Rhine, swollen by several days of torrential rain, reached its highest level since 1970, swamping the old city centre of Cologne and several low-lying

areas of Bonn. Officials expected the Rhine to reach its highest level last night and then start to recede.

Flood water was pumped from the vaults of the Bundesrat building in Bonn and the Speaker's private entrance could be reached only by boat, a Parliament spokesman said.

Several embassies, including those of Turkey and Yugoslavia, were under water in the diplomatic suburb of Bad Godesberg and guests at a luxury riverside hotel were evacuated by boat. Makenhoff floodgates were set up around the sprawling American Embassy complex in Bad Godesberg.

The medieval streets between Cologne's Gothic cathedral and

the Rhine were under 3ft of water and many residents took refuge on the first floor of their houses.

Emergency teams battled all night to stem the floods, but pumping was suspended in some parts of Cologne yesterday because of fears that historic buildings might collapse, officials said.

The floods caused widespread disruption to public transport and road traffic chaos throughout the Rhine. West Europe's busiest inland waterway, has been suspended until next week at the earliest.

Flooding was also severe in Koblenz and stranded campers were rescued by boat from riverside sites near the town of

Andernach. Some caravans were swept away.

The city of Trier, on the river Moselle, has declared a state of emergency.

Agriculture Ministry officials said the floods would delay planting of sugar beet, but should not harm the scenic terraced vineyards in the Rhine and Moselle valleys.

In Luxembourg, roads along the Moselle remained closed but water started to recede in the worst flooding experienced by the Grand Duchy since 1947, officials said.

In many towns and villages along the "wine road" that follows the river, people moved to the first floors of their houses as basements and ground floors were under water.

## Heseltine rejects dual-key for cruise

By Philip Webster  
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, impressed Conservative backbenchers last night with a stout defence of the joint decision-making arrangements between Britain and the United States for the firing of cruise missiles stationed on British soil.

Addressing a joint meeting of the Conservative backbench defence and foreign affairs committees in the Commons, Mr Heseltine apparently succeeded in dispelling any lasting impression that the Government might be thinking of asking the Americans for a dual-key system of control, as some of his backbenchers wish.

He spoke with satisfaction of the way the existing joint decision arrangement has worked since it was instituted in 1951 by Mr Clement Attlee and President Truman. He said it would be illogical to have a dual-key system for cruise missiles, and not to have one for the Poseidon submarines and the F111 bombers.

He added that to introduce such a system would be costly, delay the installation of the missiles, and worst of all, be bad for relations between the two countries, damaging the atmosphere of mutual trust.

MPs said later that Mr Heseltine's presentation had been highly effective. "If only he had half an hour on television to do that," one said, "but that does not mean his difficulties with some backbenchers are over."

Few of the dual key proponents spoke at last night's meeting, and many of them were absent, but they are hoping to press the issue to a vote when the Commons debates disarmament, probably the week after next.

About 40 Conservative MPs from a wide cross-section of the party last month backed a motion from Mr Alan Clark, MP for Plymouth, Sutton, calling for the introduction of a "mechanism for sovereign physical control." It was withdrawn because of fears that it might embarrass the party.

But Mr Clark hopes to table an amendment along the same lines for the debate, he told *The Times* yesterday. "A few statements, however often repeated and whatever form they may take, are useless."

What we are talking about is an acute crisis. At that time overriding national interests are the sole criteria."

## Frank Johnson in the Commons

### A lens-eye view of the Queen of committees

Mr Austin Mitchell, a well-publicised Labour backbencher who, for that reason, sometimes arouses disapproval and perhaps even envy in some of his rougher Labour colleagues, was yesterday voted leave to bring in a Bill allowing television cameras access to the proceedings of Parliament's committees.

The Bill responded once more to the controversial issue of whether Mr Mitchell should be televised. Members are divided more or less equally on the issue. The opponents of allowing cameras access to him argue that the cameras will concentrate only on the headline-catching part of Mr Mitchell's proceedings.

The supporters are in favour of it for the same reason. Others believe that the televising of Mr Mitchell is inevitable - something which, in a world dominated by the electronic media, is unavoidable.

Both supporters and opponents were on hand in good numbers yesterday as Mr Mitchell began his speech on the latter group, particularly on the Labour side, being the more rebellious, for immediately prior to being elected to the Commons, Mr Mitchell followed the trade of television presenter.

As objects of loathing among Labour backbenchers, television presenters now rank well ahead of slum landlords and Chilean generals. Television presenters are associated with being recognized in supermarkets by libidinous housewives and similar injustices. Also, it is assumed, presumably rightly, that the actual work of television presenting, which confers these privileges, is extremely cushy.

Most Labour members do not object to people having a cushy time provided they have it in obscurity. It is the television presenter's combination of fortunate circumstances that arouses their irritation.

So, when Mr Mitchell rose yesterday, he faced much potential opposition from his own side. He began by emphasizing the immense importance to Parliament, democracy, and indeed civilization, of select committees.

"I am proud to belong to the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee," he announced. He went still further.

"I regard it as the most intellectually demanding part of my experience as an MP," he said. There spoke a man who had perhaps been sparing in the demands he had made upon his intellect. It was hard on the public, then, that the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, stuffed as it was with MPs making the most strenuous demands on their intellects, was not televised - so that folk could see all that demanding going on.

The committee on race relations had been filmed walking about Bristol after the riots, but could not be filmed being a committee, he lamented.

Mr Mitchell seemed unable to accept that any of us are sceptical of committees of any kind - be they select committees, committees of inquiry, or committees of workers, peasants and intellectuals.

He referred to the need to televise above all "The Queen of committees: the Treasury and Economic Policy Committee," seemingly unaware that to many of us the Queen of Committees is not any particular committee, but Lady Plowden, who seems to be on all of them. Asking questions on television, said Mr Mitchell, should not be left to "amateurs like Sir Robin Day."

One later consulted Mr Mitchell's *Who's Who* entry. He turned out to be, in addition to a television presenter, the author of the book with the perhaps the least dramatic title in English literature: *New Zealand Politics in Action*, which work was followed up with the equally restrained *Politics and People in New Zealand*. What does that amateur Day know about New Zealand?

Another Labour backbencher, Mr Joe Ashton, spoke against the Bill. He had seen televised committees in America, he said. They were shambles. Senator McCarthy had done well out of televised committees, he said (omitting to say that the senator was also destroyed by one). "Nixon was his side who became Vice-President," added Mr Ashton.

Actually, Mr Nixon had nothing much to do with McCarthy. Perhaps Mr Ashton was thinking of Alger Hiss or possibly Rudolf Hess. Who could say? It was a thoroughly confusing pair of speeches.

## Sierra campaign kills hopes for end to price war

Continued from page 1

taxation offices could not cope and a reported 4,000 sales had to be carried over to April.

The incentives continue this month with the exception of those paid to fleet buyers, who are said to have received a £200 rebate for each Sierra bought in March.

Mr Sam Toy, Ford of Britain's chairman, has said that support for Sierra was necessary because of the "dirty tricks" of the campaign being waged by rivals.

With the British market heading for record sales this year of over 1,720,000 cars, manufacturers were hoping that after two years in the doldrums

they would be able to phase out the widespread discounting which has led to the most bitterly contested cut-price battle for many years.

They complain that Ford's massive intervention has disrupted the entire market. Ford reacted angrily last night to this claim. A spokesman said: "We have not spent anything like the sums they are

talking about. We are not prepared to say how much because we do not divulge our marketing expenditure."

"Whatever we do we still do within the limits of making a profit and it is not true of any of them. Whatever the 10-day figures show now, we are still confident that Sierra will be a Number One at the end of the month." Bishops' plea, page 2

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend a Service of the Royal Victoria Order in St George's Chapel, Windsor, 11.30. A reception in St George's Hall, Windsor, for those attending the Service.

The Service will also be attended by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke of Gloucester, and The Duke and Duchess of Kent.

The Duke of Kent carries out engagements in Dartford: visits Wellcome Foundation, 3.40; and Dartford YMCA, 4.50; as Patron of the Kent Opera, attends a performance of *Don Giovanni*, The Orchard, Dartford, 6.50.

**Exhibitions in progress**  
Glass engraving by Alison Geisler, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 8).

English watercolours from 1750 to 1850; and A Special Friendship: work acquired for the Gallery, with the aid of The Friends; both at

Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9, closed Sun (until May 7).

Gulbenkian award-winners' prints, 1982, and porcelain by Philippa Crossin both at Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until April 27).

Five Painters - an exhibition focusing on work by five British painters who live and work in the south of England, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton University; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun (until April 3).

Alive To It All: works by 13 artists, including Klee, Miro and Roger Hilton, Forens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Bath; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30; (until April 24).

Work by John Chapman and Christine McKelvey, Museum and Art Gallery, Library Street, Blackburn; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 6, Sat 9.30 to 5, closed Sun (until April 30).

Harveys History of Wine collection, Chelmsford and Essex Museum, Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 22).

Maritime England Mary Rose Exhibition, Bickhams Castle, Tiverton, Devon; Wed and Sun 2 to 5; (until Oct 10).

Work by three Canadian sculptors, Museum and Art Gallery, Cartwright Hall, Bradford; Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon; (until May 8).

Dress of the Year 1963-1983, Museum of Costume, Assembly Rooms, Bath; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 6, Sun 10 to 6; (until Oct).

**Musical**  
Concert by the Halle Orchestra, Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester, 7.30.

Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra, City Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

Concert by the British Youth Symphony Orchestra, Chichester Cathedral, 7.30.

Recital by Geoffrey Buckley, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 10.

Concert by the Pump Room Trio, Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath, 7.30.

Concert by Plymouth Area Police Choir, Guildhall, Plymouth, 7.30.

**Talks, lectures**  
To the Roof of the World, by I. Bunyan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.

William Hunter, Book Collector, by J. Baldwin, Boyd Orr Building, Glasgow University, 3.

**Walks**  
Royal London, meet Westminster Underground, 11 am.

Chelmsford, meet Sloane Square Underground, 2.30 pm.

Haunted London Ghost Walk (finishing in a pub), meet Covent Garden Underground.

Mysterious Interiors of Hidden London, meet Holborn Underground, 10 am.

Quiet City Pubs, Curious and Courtyards, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30 pm.

The London Dickens Knew, meet Blackfriars Underground, 11 am.

Literary London - Fleet Street, meet St Paul's Underground, 2 pm.

Religion in London, meet outside Museum of London, 2.30 pm.

### New books - paperback

A selection of interesting books published this week:  
The Arts and Crafts Movement, by Margaret Richardson (Trafal, £5.95)  
Bertolt Brecht in America, by James K. Lyon (Methuen, £5.95)  
Discovering Bletchley, by Tony Soper (BBC, £2.50)  
The Great War, by John Keegan (Penguin, £4.95)  
Moonlight, by David Foster (Picador, £2.50)  
Selected Poems of Thomas Hardy, edited by James Reeves and Robert Gittings (Penguin, £1.25)  
The Book of the Dead (RKP, £5.95)  
The Vanishing Hitchhiker, by Jan Harold Brunvand (Picador, £1.95)  
Waterways Postcards 1900-1930, by Hugh McKnight (Shepperton Swan, £4.95)  
With Love, by Theodora FitzGibbon (Pan, £1.95)

### Anniversaries

Births: Abraham Ortelius, cartographer, Antwerp, 1527; Christian Huygens, mathematician and astronomer, The Hague, 1629.  
Deaths: George Friedrich Handel, London, 1759; Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, was shot at Ford's Theatre, Washington, and died the following day, 1865; Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (born April 27), Moscow, 1915; Louis Sullivan, architect, Chicago, 1924; Vladimir Mayakovsky, poet, Moscow, 1930; Ernest Berio, London, 1931.

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Finance Bill, second reading.  
Lords (3): British Shipbuilders Bill, report. Debate on EEC Committee report on borrowing and lending.

### Cityline

British Telecom provides a pre-recorded business news summary including the FT Index. Call FT Cityline: (01) 246 8026.

### The pound

|                 | Bank   | Bank   |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
|                 | Buys   | Sells  |
| Australia \$    | 1.84   | 1.76   |
| Austria Sch     | 27.55  | 25.75  |
| Canada Fr       | 77.75  | 73.75  |
| Denmark Kr      | 1.96   | 1.88   |
| Finland Mk      | 13.75  | 13.05  |
| France Fr       | 8.74   | 8.24   |
| Germany DM      | 11.55  | 11.00  |
| Greece Dr       | 135.80 | 124.00 |
| Hongkong \$     | 10.70  | 10.15  |
| Ireland Pt      | 1.22   | 1.16   |
| Italy Lira      | 275.00 | 217.50 |
| Japan Yen       | 365.00 | 365.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.34   | 4.13   |
| Norway Kr       | 11.45  | 10.85  |
| Portugal Esc    | 158.50 | 144.50 |
| South Africa Rd | 1.89   | 1.72   |
| Spain Ps        | 120.00 | 109.00 |
| Sweden Kr       | 11.56  | 11.36  |
| Switzerland Fr  | 3.27   | 3.09   |
| USA \$          | 1.59   | 1.53   |
| Yugoslavia Dnr  | 1.22   | 1.16   |

Prices for small denomination bank notes only, supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 327.3.  
London: The FT Index closed down 0.6 at 687.1.

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to:

Carly James, TTIS, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

### Roads

London and South-east: A308: Major roadworks on Sunbury Road, Hampton, Middlesex: avoid Hampton Court area. A3216: Chelsea Bridge: only one lane in use, use Albert Embankment or Vauxhall Bridge as alternatives. A362: Dartford Tunnel: Roadworks causing temporary with restriction of 9 foot 6 inches each way.

Middlesex and East Angles: A1: Lane closures on Stangate Hill, near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire.

Wales and West: A55: Temporary signals between Highlands Road and Law Centre, Old Colwyn, Clwyd, North Wales. A541: Roadworks from Westminster Bridge, Gwynedd, to Oak Alyn, Wrexham, Clwyd, North Wales. M5: Northbound slip-road closed at junction 25 (Tunton); diversion signposted via junction 26 (A38, Wellington).

North: M6: Lane closures between junctions 25 (A49, Wigton) and 27 (A5209, Wigan/Stanbury), Greater Manchester: work will last until November. Also southbound carriageway closed between junctions 41 (N of Penrith) to 42 (S of Carlisle), Cumbria; all traffic sharing northbound carriageway.

Scotland: A8: Shoring Road, Muirhead, closed either side of Muirhead village until tomorrow. A8: Diversions and carriageway closures at Parkies, Fort Glasgow, Strathclyde. A92: Kirkcaldy Express, closed at junction 41 (N of Penrith) to 42 (S of Carlisle), Cumbria; all traffic sharing northbound carriageway.

Information supplied by the AA.

### The papers

The Daily Mirror awards Oscar to various politicians in a light-hearted leader this morning: "Our Oscar for the Best Newcomer goes to David Steel for the seventeenth successive year. The Most Promising Minister award goes to Cecil Parkinson, who has not stopped promising since he joined the Cabinet. Sir Geoffrey Howe gets the award for the most boring line ever made on a tight budget. We regret that despite intensive lobbying by their cronies, neither Peter Tatchell nor Roy Jenkins was anything."

The Daily Express finds the Left's hostile reaction to Government proposals to introduce a voluntary stint in the Armed Forces for jobless teenagers "predicable". "What is wrong in offering some teenagers the chance to learn the discipline and skills which are part of Service life? Hope must be offered to young people out of work, and schemes which do this are welcome."

## Weather forecast

A westerly airstream will persist, with a weak trough of low pressure clearing S.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands: Becoming dry and brighter after a rather cloudy start; wind variable, light; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).

East Angles, Midlands, E, NW, Central N, NE, England, Wales, Lake District, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Northern Ireland: Mostly dry with some sunnier spells; wind mainly W, light to moderate; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, some scattered showers; wind W, moderate to fresh; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Dry with sunny intervals, but rain spreading to Scotland and Northern Ireland later; becoming warmer in S.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W veering NW, moderate or fresh, locally strong at start in Dover Strait; sea slight or moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate.

Sun rises: 6.09 am Sun sets: 7.55 pm  
Moon rises: 7.02 am Moon sets: 9.21 pm  
First quarter: April 20

### Lighting-up time

London 8.25 pm to 8.30 am  
Brighton 8.31 pm to 8.41 am  
Bristol 8.37 pm to 8.47 am  
Manchester 8.27 pm to 8.41 am  
Penzance 8.44 pm to 8.50 am

### Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloudy; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.  
Belfast: 9.4C, 48F  
Birmingham: 10.0C, 50F  
Bristol: 9.4C, 49F  
Cardiff: 9.4C, 49F  
Cork: 9.4C, 49F  
Dundee: 9.4C, 49F  
Edinburgh: 9.4C, 49F  
Glasgow: 9.4C, 49F  
Liverpool: 9.4C, 49F  
London: 9.4C, 49F  
Manchester: 9.4C, 49F  
Newcastle: 9.4C, 49F  
Nottingham: 9.4C, 49F  
Oxford: 9.4C, 49F  
Plymouth: 9.4C, 49F  
Reading: 9.4C, 49F  
Sheffield: 9.4C, 49F  
Southampton: 9.4C, 49F  
Stirling: 9.4C, 49F  
Tottenham: 9.4C, 49F  
Wolverhampton: 9.4C, 49F  
Wrexham: 9.4C, 49F

### London

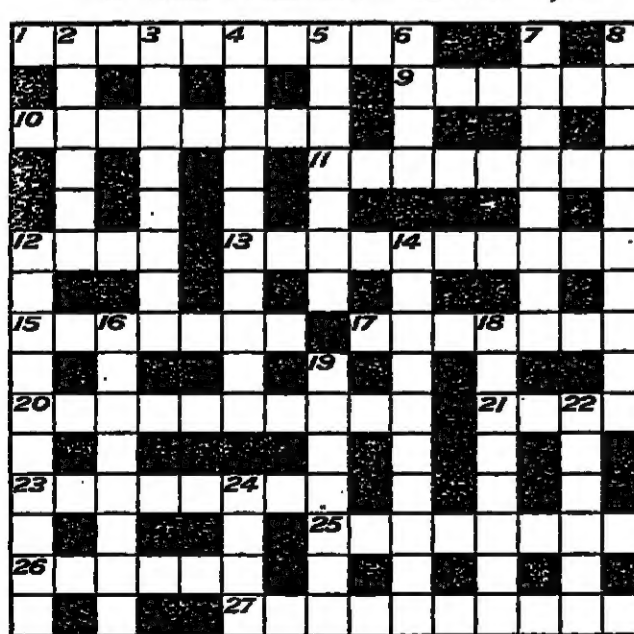
Yesterday: Temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 13C (55F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 70%. Wind: 7 pm to 7 am, 3.0 m/s, 6.7 mph; 7 am to 7 pm, 2.0 m/s, 4.5 mph. Rain: 1.00 mm (0.04 in).  
1.00 mm (0.04 in)

### Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: London 13C (55F); lowest night temp: Cape Wrath 7C (45F); highest rainfall: 10.2 mm (0.4 in).

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### The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,103



#### ACROSS

- One religious system in an undefined setting indulged in by Holmes (10).
- Enjoy the view, my old American friend, from the belvedere (6).
- Freebooter to make a double with Red Rum? (8).
- The Spanish girl goes to party in Manos (8).
- Circus performer with an impressive act indeed? (4).
- Appointment as Minister to make speech about noise (10).
- Improve strength perhaps, by signing him out? (7).
- Intellectual's cracked, if one of those in their cups? (7).
- Mother maybe holds back letters for both our houses (10).
- One involved with arms (4).
- A figure sufficiently angular for the Muses (8).
- One trick in tune arrangement, to arouse curiosity (8).
- Sweet but glibly type (6).
- Head of state a year from now? (3,7).

#### DOWN